Nippon Times

No. 16,446 (THE 20th YEAR of SHOWA) TOKYO, MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1945 第三種郵便物認可 昭和十五年十二月二十七日 Price 25 Sen

10 U.S. WAR VESSELS HIT IN P.I. WAR ZONE BY NIPPON AIR UNITS

I.H.Q. Reveals New Blows Dealt Enemy Convoy Carrying Reinforcements to Mindoro

The Issei, Tesshin, Kyokko, Shinshu, and Koka Air Units of the Special Attack Corps of the Japanese Air Forces under the protection of fighter planes blasted 10 enemy warcraft, including two cruisers instantaneously sunk, and eight transports sunk or damaged, on and after December 29, when they attacked an enemy convoy carrying reinforcements to Mindoro Island, the Imperial Headquarters announced in its communique issued at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE

4 p.m., December 31

"The Issei, Tesshin, Kyokko, Shinshu, and Koka Air Units of our Special Attack Corps protected by fighter planes attacked an enemy reinforcement convoy proceeding to Mindoro Island on and after December 29 and inflicted crippling blows on the enemy.

"Of the war results obtained by the aforementioned Special Attack Air Units those known up to the present follow:

Transports:	
Sunk	3
Heavily damaged and set ablaze	5
Cruisers:	
Instantaneously sunk	2."

Suffered Crippling Blow

As a result of the ceaseless Japanese aerial attacks, the American convoy, escorted by cruisers and destroyers, which was carrying reinforcements to Mindoro Island, has already lost its major strength following its entry into the Sulu Sea from the Mindanao Sea on and around December 27.

As was already announced by the Imperial Headquarters, Japanese Air Forces blasted a total of 17 enemy war vessels, including 14 transports, one destroyer, one cruiser, and one torpedo-boat, sunk or damaged, on December 28 and 29 when they attacked the enemy convoy in the Mindanao and Sulu Seas.

Another brilliant war results of blasting 16 American warcraft has now been added to the previously announced results, thus bringing the total to 33 warships, sunk or damaged by the Japanese up to the present. The furious onslaughts by the units of the Special Attack Corps in cooperation with other Wild Eagles of the Imperial Forces are now being continued.

Under the protection of fighter planes, Units of the Issei, Tesshin, Kyokko, Shinshu and Koka Special Attack Air Corps carried out attacks on the enemy convoy one after another on and after December 29 when they blasted a total of 10 enemy warships, including two cruisers instantaneously sunk.

Spotting a group of transports steaming northward in the Sulu Sea, one plane of the Issei Special Attack Air Unit launched a ramming attack and instantaneously sank one transport at 5 p.m. on December 29. Hampered by inclement weather, other members of the same Special Attack Air Unit were forced to return before catching up with their objectives.

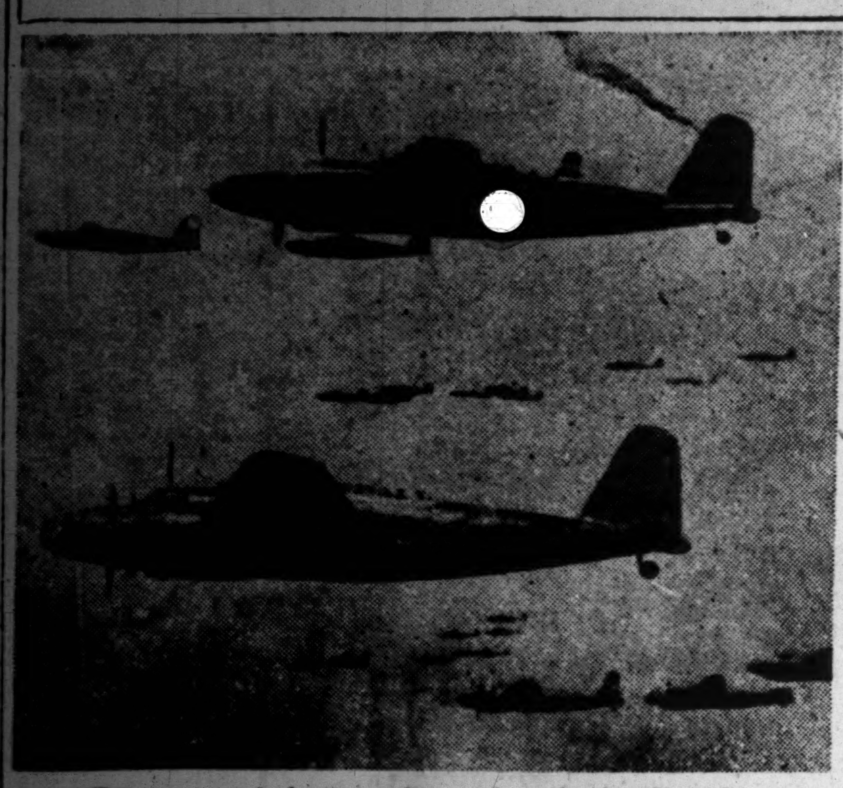
At 5:30 p.m. on the same day, three planes of the Tesshin and one plane of the Kyokko Special Attack Unit dashed into the enemy convoy in the waters south of Mindoro Island in defiance of the severe enemy A.A. resistance. Units of the Japanese Air Force, which escorted the attack, also encountered a formation of strong Grumman fighter units over the scene of the attack. As a result, the war results achieved by the Tesshin and Kyokko Units could not be ascertained but considerable results are believed to have been obtained.

Attacking the enemy convoy off San Jose at midnight of December 29, the Shinshu Special Attack Air Unit with one plane, set ablaze one transport. Two other planes of the same unit also sallied forth to the same attack but, due to the darkness of the night, were unable to contact the enemy.

Continuing their attacks, three planes of the Koka Special Unit attacked the enemy fleet near San Jose at 7 a.m. on December 30 when they blasted three large transports. On the same afternoon, five planes

(Continued on Page 2 Col 8)

War Wings Over Mindoro



To carry out furious assaults against the invading forces, a formation of Imperial Japanese Army planes speed forth to battle in the skies over Mindoro Island.

NEW DRIVE IN AACHEN AREA LAUNCHED BY RUNDSTEDT

Enemy Admits Start of Fresh Reich Attacks in German-Dutch Frontier Zone

Domei

LISBON, December 30.—In the Aachen sector, drained of anti-Axis troops which were thrown into the battle to check the German offensive, Field Marshal Gert von Rundstedt launched new attacks yesterday, according to a front-line dispatch.

Eisenhower's Headquarters announced also today that the Germans launched an attack with infantry forces near Gagelt on the German-Dutch frontier northwest of Geilenkirchen. The announcement said the attack was stopped, but conceded the attack gained some initial success.

Eisenhower has clamped down again on news concerning the new attacks, but the impression is gained that Field Marshal Rundstedt has engaged considerable forces in the offensive.

Yanks Attack in Vain

Domei

BERLIN, December 30.—The Americans failed to score the slightest success during the past 24 hours against both the northern and southern flank of the German wedge in Ardennes, so strong was German counterpressure.

With frightfully high losses, the Americans attacked repeatedly in vain against the northern flank between Stavelot and Rochefort while pressure against the southern flank was mainly concentrated in the area between Laisse and Sauer. All attacks broke down in face of concentrated fire from German barrier positions, while at several places in the Ourthe sector, German troops launched a counterthrust which netted further gains.

Fighting in the Ardennes is now being waged over ground covered by deep snow. All the small rivers are ice-bound and icy storms are sweeping the higher plateaus. On this snow-covered battlefield General Eisenhower has now thrown in some 26 divisions of the 44 American divisions employed on the Western Front, but it is unlikely that he can afford to withdraw additional formations from the remaining 18 divisions still stationed on the Saar front, the southern frontier of Palatinate, and in upper Alsace.

Meanwhile, Rundstedt's Headquarters said today that two important features marked the great winter battle in Belgium and Luxemburg during the past 24 hours. Field Marshal Rundstedt is carrying out his operations with the greatest calm and Eisenhower is bringing up fresh reinforcements to increase pressure against the northern and southern German wings.

American counteroperations present a picture of extreme anxiety and are aimed at seeing decisions, while Field Marshal Rundstedt, on the other hand, is taking measures which may be interpreted as an "intermediary phase." Eisenhower is showing much greater haste than his opponent.

The winter battle in the Ardennes is consumming more and more American divisions and already more than half of all the American divisions along the front of almost 700 kilometers are now being employed in a section which measures roughly 50 kilometers wide. The German High Command has estimated that thus far roughly one-third of the entire American force in the west have been shattered or badly mauled on the Belgian and Luxemburg battlefields.

But it is reasonably believed that Eisenhower would not dare withdraw much more formations from the other sectors to be thrown against the German offensive. Already press comments in the enemy camp are showing some concern that the Germans may launch a second offensive in some other sector of the front.

GARRISON AT BUDAPEST INCREASES RESISTANCE

Every House Turned Into Fortress as Fierce Street-Fighting Continues

Domei

STOCKHOLM, December 30.—Resistance of German and Hungarian troops in Budapest is still increasing, the Red Star said today, according to a Moscow dispatch.

The paper emphasizes that every house has become a fortress and that streets and squares are mined. Machine-guns and grenades are being fired from housetops. Also from windows, roof-slits and even from trees of the Royal Park furious fire awaits the Soviet troops.

American journalist George Morad also stresses the violence of the fighting now raging in Budapest. The strong garrison, says his report, is defending itself so stubbornly that the Soviets must fight for control of every single street and each individual house on the outskirts of the city. The most fierce street fighting, however, is raging apparently in the northern and western sections of the city of Budapest.

Soviet Losses Heavy

Domei

BERLIN, December 30.—The stout garrison troops in Budapest continue to defend the city against incessant attacks from the northeast and southeast. The defenders are writing a glorious chapter of heroism in the annals of military history as they continue to ward off the attackers from each house, building and barricades erected in every street and park. Every foot of ground gained by the Red troops is costing them frightful losses. Barrage of mines, hand grenades, machine-guns and bayonets continue to present an almost unsurmountable barrier.

Stubborn resistance by the defenders of the Hungarian capital is not only influencing the course of events in that sector but also other areas of the Hungarian front. The Soviets are throwing in more and more fresh forces to overcome the stubborn German and Hungarian resistance.

The fact that the German garrison in Budapest is tying down far numerically superior forces is already influencing developments in other sectors. During the past 24 hours, the vigor of the Soviet attacks between Lake Balaton and the Danube and in the area of Stuhlweissenburg has slackened markedly and renewed assaults were warded off.

Meanwhile, on the northern end of the wide Eastern Front, roughly 25 Soviet divisions continued to attack at the old focal points in the Courland district. German resistance has, however, greatly weakened the strength of the Soviet thrusts. The center of the fighting yesterday in this sector was again in the area north of Doblen where German troops successfully held off all Soviet attacks. Most of the Soviet assaults broke down before German artillery fire and shell-throwers.

6 MORE WARCRAFT HIT IN AIR ASSAULT ON ENEMY'S CONVOY

Additional Losses Inflicted on Americans in P.I. Waters Revealed by I.H.Q.

The sinking of five enemy transports and the damaging of one cruiser has been added to the war results obtained in the aerial attack on the enemy convoy carrying reinforcements to Mindoro Island, as previously reported, it was revealed by the Imperial Headquarters in its communique issued at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE

3 p.m., December 31

"The sinking of five enemy transports and the damaging of one cruiser has been added to the war results obtained in the aerial attack on the enemy reinforcement convoy proceeding to Mindoro Island, as previously reported."

33 U.S. Vessels Smashed

Altogether 33 enemy warcraft, including 27 transports, four cruisers, one destroyer, and one torpedo boat have been blasted by Units of the Army and Navy Special Attack Corps and other Wild Eagles of the Imperial Air Forces in their three-day attack on an enemy convoy in the Mindanao and Sulu seas on December 28, 29 and 30, this being only the war results known up to the morning of December 31.

The following is a detailed list of the war results:

Transports:	
Sunk (including those instantaneously sunk)	18
Heavily damaged and set ablaze	8
Damaged	1
Cruiser:	
Sunk instantly	2
Damaged	2
Destroyer:	
Damaged	1
Torpedo-boats:	
Sunk	1
Total	33

Transports Seen Aflame

By T. YOSHIDA and H. SATO

Of the Military Press Corps

PHILIPPINE BASE, December 30.—According to reconnaissance by a Navy scout plane on Saturday, in the neighborhood of the bay of San Jose three large-sized transports are aflame and are almost on the point of sinking. The south airfield is littered with many small planes which had been blasted, while about six planes are still burning. At the north airfield 20 small planes were seen on the ground, while several planes were flying over the field on patrol. At this place, two planes had been set ablaze by our airmen.

In the waters south of San Jose, about one-half of the enemy's force of five warships and about 20 transports is at anchor, while the other half is crisising southward through the channel between Mindoro Island.

The enemy transport force that attempted to bring reinforcements to the base at San Jose lost almost one-third of its total strength in the attacks made by our Air Forces since December 28. In the area south of Mindoro on Friday four large transports and one torpedo boat were sunk, and two large transports, one cruiser, and one destroyer were damaged. When the complete reports of the results attained by all our Special Attack Units are received, the enemy's loss would easily reach more than one-half of his full strength.

Since the landing on San Jose on December 15, the enemy has been attempting to strengthen his base, and at one time concentrated more than 100 planes there. On December 22 the enemy planes commenced operations to reduce our strength in the Philippines, in cooperation with the air forces based in Morotai. But since December 27, the enemy attempt has been completely smashed by the positive offensive activity of our Air Force and Surface Units. Since then, the enemy's air raids on the northern part of the Philippines seem to have been suspended.

8 Planes Downed at Amran

Domei

SOUTHERN FRONT BASE, December 29.—Sixteen enemy aircraft, on December 19, raided the Amran airfield in North Celebes, 50 kilometers southwest of Menado. Fight enemy machines were downed by ground fire.

BIGGER WAR EFFORT DEMANDED BY KOISO IN NEW YEAR SPEECH

Prime Minister Urges Government and People to Unite For Victory

Expressing his views on the fourth New Year of the War of Greater East Asia, Prime Minister General Kuniaki Koiso stressed the urgent need of strengthening the national structure to prosecute successfully the war and also to perfect anti-air raid defenses although by so doing further difficulties in the daily life of the people may be encountered and as enemy raids over Japan increase. At the same time, the Prime Minister expressed his determination that in the present year, the Government and the people should unite as one, as it is in this year that Greater East Asia is to be restored to its original structure, and the Government would make every effort to concentrate all strength for the object of gaining final victory.

Prime Minister Koiso's New Year statement, substantially, follows:

"In welcoming the fourth New Year of the War of Greater East Asia, I most humbly offer my sincere prayers for the glorious reign and longevity of His Majesty the Emperor.

"In opening the 86th Imperial Diet, His Imperial Majesty had graciously granted the Imperial Message, 'The war situation is getting critical. It is, in truth, time for the people to be of one mind and to make every effort to crush the enemy.' We are most deeply impressed by the Imperial message, and all of us must pledge ourselves to defeat the enemy and conquer the national crisis so as to set His August Mind at rest."

"Even as I speak our officers and men on the firing line are shaping the national destiny. Particularly in the battles on the Philippine front which will decide the outcome of the war our Army and Navy Special Attack Corps are taking the offensive day and night and destroying the enemy attempt at invasion. They are gladly sacrificing their lives for the homeland. Therefore the people behind the guns emulating the spirit of the members of the Special Attack Corps, and devoting all their efforts in their respective fields of activity, must increase the total fighting strength of the Empire.

"In the present war, the whole humanity of the earth has participated and in the vastness of its scale and in the complication of its international relations, it has no precedent in world history. One that loses the fighting spirit will be defeated while the one that persistently fights with a strong fighting spirit to the very last will gain final victory.

"With the progress of the war, difficulties in the people's daily life will increase and there is also the danger of air raids becoming more intensive. I sincerely hope, however, that the 100,000,000 people of the Empire will remain cheerful and fight bravely, planning better life through their own creative efforts and strengthening the air defense facilities until the attainment of the final victory. This year is the one in which great progress will be made in the war.

"The Government intends to take firm measures for the victory. This year is the 1,300th year since the Taika Reform that had manifested the honor and strength of the Empire to the world and brought the country back to its original structure. Now the United States and Britain that have been driven out of Greater East Asia have started their counteroffensive in an attempt to enslave again Greater East Asia.

"This is the year when the dark cloud covering East Asia will be swept away and a truly Greater East Asia will be established in its original form. With this conviction, we expect to attain our common ideals in cooperation with the other countries of Greater East Asia by defeating the enemy, and proceeding with the work of construction."

Rejects Eisenhower's Bid

Domei

BERLIN, December 30.—General Dwight Eisenhower's demand to obtain 350,000 tons of shipping in addition to the vessels already used for the urgent transport of the wounded American soldiers was flatly rejected by the U.S. Shipping Board declaring that the originally stipulated shipping space limit could not be surpassed in order not to endanger the transport of war materials.

His Majesty Graciously Offers Prayers On New Year's Day For Japan's Prosperity

Shihohai, or Worship in Four Directions, one of the four most important Court ceremonies, was to be observed by the Imperial Household early this morning with His Majesty the Emperor graciously officiating in person and offering prayers for the prosperity of the Empire and the welfare and happiness of its 100,000,000 people.

His Imperial Majesty, in ceremonial costume, was to appear at the Imperial Sanctuary at 5:30 a. m. and to graciously worship in the direction of the Grand Shrines of Ise, the various other shrines and the Imperial Mausolea.

At 5:40 a.m., following the Shihohai rites, His Imperial Majesty was to officiate at the ceremony of greeting the New Year's Day before the Imperial Sanctuary.

Due to the current situation, His Imperial Majesty will not perform the usual ceremony of receiving New Year greetings from the Imperial Princes and Princesses and from all high privileged persons. Qualified persons will be allowed, however, to offer their New Year congratulations at the Imperial Palace and the Omiya Palace from 9 a. m. till 4 p.m. today

GREEK RULER APPOINTS DAMASKINOS AS REGENT

George II Reluctantly Obeys Blunt Demand by Churchill—ELAS Offers Memorandum

Domei

LISBON, December 30.—King George II of Greece, yielding reluctantly to the blunt British demand, has appointed Archbishop Damaskinos as Regent of strife-torn Greece today, according to a London dispatch.

The King's proclamation was made shortly after Damaskinos' secretary had announced from Athens that Damaskinos had received a cable from the King appointing him Regent. In his new appointment, the King capitulated to the demand by Prime Minister Churchill made on his return from Greece.

Memorandum Given Scobie

Domei

LISBON, December 30.—The central committee of the ELAS military corps drafted a memorandum yesterday and submitted it to Lieutenant General Ronald Scobie, Commander of British troops, and asked him to transmit it to Prime Minister Churchill, it is reported by Reuters from Athens.

The nature of the memorandum is unknown as Lieutenant Scobie is following a policy of not announcing its content until the receipt of a reply from London. But according to a UP report, it is said to contain new armistice terms. British military authorities at Athens seem to have found a hope for settling the internal disturbance, with the establishment of the Regency.

On the other hand, Lieutenant General Scobie announced today that a request had been made to the Athens branch of the International Red Cross Society to conduct an investigation of the maltreatment of war prisoners by ELAS troops. But this question is not likely to be easily settled, as the Greek troops are known to have shot ELAS prisoners to death.

Captives Said Maltreated

Domei

LISBON, December 30.—Lieutenant-General Ronald Scobie charged in a statement today that ELAS forces were mistreating British prisoners and said that Red Cross attempts to reach an understanding with the Leftist forces regarding the captives were unsuccessful, according to an Athens dispatch.

British authorities said that eyewitness accounts showed that the ELAS men stripped British prisoners to their underwear and left them for long periods in the cold weather. They explained that the British were unable to investigate these accounts officially because of the ELAS refusal to permit Red Cross members to visit the ELAS prison camps. The British charged that specific violations include failure of the ELAS to notify the British of the name and state of health of the British prisoners.

RUNDSTEDT USES V-BOMBS

Enemy Supply Dumps, Rear Positions Blasted in Big Offensive

Domei

LISBON, December 30.—The present employment of V-bombs on the Western Front by the Germans was described by Walter Farr, special correspondent of the London Daily Mail, as the "biggest V-bomb offensive" so far, according to a London dispatch.

He wrote that hundreds of bombs had descended on anti-Axis supply dumps and key rear positions as well as over the front during the past weeks. No definite figures are available, he said, but added that Field Marshal Gert von Rundstedt had calculated the employment of his bombs so astutely that one could speak of a "veritable V-bomb front." The correspondent stated that this offensive had clearly shown the possibilities of the new weapon.

GEN. ANDO IS APPOINTED GOV.-GENERAL OF TAIWAN

Admiral Hasegawa Relieved at Own Request—Imperial Approval Gained December 30

General Rikichi Ando, Commander-in-Chief of the Taiwan Army, has been appointed Governor-General of Taiwan in succession to Admiral Kiyoshi Hasegawa, who was relieved of his post at his own request. The appointment of General Ando to his new post was decided by the Government, it is understood, with due consideration of the importance of Taiwan in the crucial stage of the war as well as the special position of the Governor-General of the Island. Imperial Approval was obtained for the new appointment on the afternoon of December 30, when the matter was announced by the Government.

After graduating from the Staff Officers' College of the Army, General Ando occupied important posts in succession, until he was appointed Deputy Inspector-General of Military Education in February, 1938. In the autumn of the same year, after the capture of Canton, he was appointed the Supreme Commander of the Japanese Forces in South China in succession to the late General Kantaro Furusho, at which post he remained for three years. During this period, he rendered brilliant services in South China operations including the Peihai landing and the capture of Nanning. He advanced troops to North French Indo-China in September, 1940.

In April, 1942, after the outbreak of the Greater East Asia War, he was transferred to the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Taiwan Army. In January, 1944, he was promoted to full General. Among his classmates at the Military Academy were General Yasuji Okamoto, the Supreme Commander of the Japanese Forces in China, General Seishiro Itagaki, Commander-in-Chief of the Chosen Army, and General Kenji Doihara.

Admiral Kiyoshi Hasegawa was appointed Member of the Supreme Military Council on his retirement from the Governor-Generalship of Taiwan. Born 61 years ago, he was a classmate of Admiral Oikawa, Chief of the Naval Board of Command, at the Naval Academy. He served for a period as naval attache to the Japanese Embassy at Washington. In 1933, he was a member of the Japanese delegation to the Disarmament Conference at Geneva. On returning from the conference, he served as Navy Vice-Minister under Admiral Osumi and Admiral Nagano.

In December, 1936, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Third Fleet. During his tenure of the post, the China Affair broke out, which circumstances badly needed his services. In April, 1939, he was promoted to full Admiral, after serving as the Supreme Commander of the Japanese Naval Forces in China Waters and as Commander-in-Chief of the Yokosuka Naval Base. In the following year, he was appointed Governor-General of Taiwan in succession to Admiral Seizo Kobayashi, while retaining his status as an officer in active service. During his tenure of the Governor-Generalship, he did a great deal for the Empire and the people of Taiwan.

Ba Maw Reaches Rangoon

Domei

RANGOON, December 30.—Prime Minister Ba Maw who left for Tokyo on December 8 to confer with Japanese Government authorities and military leaders respecting measures for executing the common war, acompanied by Cooperation Minister U Tun Aung and Foreign Vice-Minister U Kyaw Nyein, returned here yesterday morning. He had been visiting Thailand on his way home, after having successfully completed his journey to the Japanese capital.

GLORIOUS MAJESTY OF IMPERIAL REIGN GREETS NEW DAWN

His Majesty, in Best of Health, Graciously Devotes Energies To Wartime Activities

The first day of the 2605th year after the Accession of Emperor Jimmu finds His Imperial Majesty graciously greeting the spring of His Majesty's 45th year.

His Imperial Majesty, it is respectfully understood, is in the best of health, a matter of hearty congratulation for the 1,000,000,000 peoples of Greater East Asia.

The members of the Imperial Family, it is also respectfully understood, continue in the enjoyment of the best of health.

It is now four years since the issuance of the Imperial Rescript declaring war on America and Britain, on December 8 in the 16th Year of Showa.

The interval has been a period during which His Imperial Majesty, it is learned with awe, has had practically no time for other activities than military affairs. However, His Imperial Majesty has been pleased not to allow even the pressure of business in the closing and opening days of the year to stand in the way of attending to the direct appeals by the Army and Navy authorities.

His Imperial Majesty, during the past year, was pleased to personally officiate or to worship at the regular monthly Court services and at those conducted before the Imperial Sanctuary.

As is universal knowledge, His Imperial Majesty frequently attended the councils of the Imperial Headquarters as well as the Supreme War Guidance Conferences.

His Imperial Majesty, time and again, graciously received in audience the high Army and Navy commanders as well as other responsible officers, prior to their departure for the fighting front, and granted them words of encouragement.

The high Army and Navy officers, returning home, also were summoned to the Imperial Palace where His Imperial Majesty was pleased to graciously receive their reports on the military situation.

From time to time, His Imperial Majesty was pleased to dispatch aide-de-camps to the fighting fronts to obtain first-hand reports of the heroic actions of the officers and men and to convey His Gracious Wishes to these fighting men.

Imperial Rescripts have been graciously granted each time that great war results were achieved by the Imperial Forces.

When the deeds of the Special Attack Corps came to the Imperial Knowledge, His Imperial Majesty was pleased to reveal His deep gratification, it is respectfully understood, and graciously granted a Rescript commending the heroism of its members.

The Imperial Rescript granted at the recent opening of the 86th Diet session revealed the path to be followed by the people in bringing the War of Greater East Asia to a victorious conclusion.

U.S. PROPOSALS OPPOSED

Ecuador Will Not Grant Air and Naval Bases After War

Domei

LISBON, December 30.—The Ecuadorean Assembly has opposed the proposals that the United States be granted air and naval bases in Ecuadorean territory after the war, it was disclosed by a Quito dispatch.

The Assembly last week advised President Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra that "negotiations which may affect the territorial integrity of postwar Ecuador are deemed inadvisable," a statement issued by the Assembly Secretariat said.

President Ibarra has asked the Assembly for advice, the statement said, and thus its decision incorporated his views also.

Suyetsugu Rites on Thursday

Funeral services for the late Admiral Nobumasa Suyetsugu, Cabinet Councillor and former Minister for Home Affairs, who died on December 29, will be observed in accordance with Shinto rites, at 9 a.m., January 4, at the Aoyama Pavilion with Admiral Osami Nagano acting as chairman of the funeral committee. This will be followed by a public service between 10 and 11 a.m.

COMMUNISTS IN FRANCE MANEUVERING FOR POWER

Single Labor Party May Be Set Up Powerful Enough to Carry Out a Revolution

A Moscow broadcast, on December 30, stressed the possibility of the formation of a single labor party in France, according to dispatches received in certain quarters. The substance of the broadcast follows:

Communist leader Thorez, who has recently returned from Moscow to Paris, is striving to establish collaboration with the socialists. Daniel Meyer, a prominent socialist, declared he was ready to cooperate with the Communists to form a single labor party. These are moves of great importance, and the establishment of collaboration between the Communists and the socialists in France, resulting in the formation of a single Marxian party, will dominate French politics and will be strong enough to carry out a revolution.

From this it appears that various political forces in France are casting about for the formation of new combinations to meet the situation under the De Gaulle regime. On the other hand, the national front and the movement for French liberation, two important groups in the fight against Germany, have for a time been considering fusion.

Further, a Paris dispatch which appeared in the Tribune de Geneve of December 5, mentions indications of cooperation between the active Catholic elements and leftist groups, and the Lyon magazine, Progress, of November 27 reported the existence of a plan to form a "preparatory" labor party as a government party by the combination of groups ranging from the socialists on the left to the democratic alliance on the right.

It may be expected that the Communists, whose activities have become prominent since the return of Thorez from Moscow, will continue to grow powerful, owing to the conclusion of the Franco-Soviet alliance. The tendency is underlined by a Geneva dispatch to the Communist newspaper Ny Dag of Stockholm, which states that the membership of the Communist Party now reaches 600,000 against that of the erstwhile front populaire which totals 300,000, and this in spite of the fact that many French laborers are now working in Germany. The membership of the Communist Party, moreover, continues to increase, the dispatch adds.

Fuehrer's Headquarters

December 30

In the northern part of the Belgo-Luxemburg sector, on both sides of the Stavelot area, the enemy has changed over to the defense whereas southwest of Bastogne he is trying in heavy but vain attacks to wipe out this cornerstone of our front. Local fighting at the Sauer is continuing.

Our troops yesterday destroyed 37 enemy tanks and armored scouting cars. Effective blows of German bombers and battleplanes were directed last night against enemy supply lines, and flak corps caused heavy casualties to the enemy in the course of ground fighting. During the last 10 days they shot down 190 planes including 15 gliders carrying ammunition.

At the remaining points on the Western Front fighting continued to be on a small scale only.

London, Antwerp, and Liege continued to be subjected to long-distance V-attacks.

In Central Italy, no battles of special importance took place.

In Hungary, our troops repelled numerous Soviet attacks in the Stuhlweissenburg and Felsoegalla areas. Surprise panzer assaults and concentric artillery fire on his assemblies hit the enemy badly. In the fighting for one locality, 18 out of 25 attacking Soviet tanks were destroyed.

In the Budapest area, German and Hungarian formations repulsed heavy tank and infantry attacks of the Soviets. North of Ipel, the Soviets are continuing to press toward the northwest. At Szenzceny and at the source of the Sajo repeated enemy attacks proved unsuccessful.

In Kurland, the gravity centers of the heavy defense fighting yesterday were in the area north of Doblen. Our grenadiers repulsed all enemy attacks.

Anglo-American bombers and fighters also yesterday continued their terror-attacks on the civilian population in southern and western Germany, particularly in the Rhine-Main district. Heavy damage to buildings was caused particularly in Bingen during a night raid of British bombers against the Rhenish-Westphalian areas. During these attacks fighters and Luftwaffe flak shot down 47 Anglo-American planes including 25 four-engined bombers.

Notice

Commencing January 1, 1945, the subscription rate of The Nippon Times will, on permission of the authorities concerned, be raised to ¥6 a month, or 25 sen a copy, due to the revision of prices of newsprint and the consequent higher cost of newspaper production.

THE NIPPON TIMES

Dr. Rizal Fought for True Oriental Ideals And For His People's Liberty, Says Vargas

Dr. Jose Rizal was not only an ardent patriot, dreaming of freedom for his people but he was also a great Oriental, proud of his Malayan blood and profoundly conscious of our racial bonds with the people of East Asia, declared Jorge B. Vargas, Philippine Ambassador to Japan, at the Philippine Embassy, in Tokyo on Saturday on the occasion of the commemmoration of the death of the Filipino national hero.

The address given by Ambassador Vargas follows:

It is fitting and proper that we should honor the memory of Dr. Jose Rizal today in this East Asian setting, in the presence of so many Japanese friends and with the inspiration of ideals shared by all Orientals; it is in truth a fulfillment and vindication of Dr. Rizal's ideas and aspirations that this anniversary of his sublime sacrifice should find our beloved country the Philippines not only a free and independent Republic but also a sovereign and equal partner in an East Asian confederation of nations.

For at the same time that he was an ardent patriot, dreaming of the freedom of his people, Dr. Rizal was also a great Oriental, proud of his Malayan blood, profoundly conscious of our racial bonds with the peoples of East Asia, and burning with indignation against the racial discrimination and exploitation that have now been happily destroyed. It is not unreasonable therefore to believe that Dr. Rizal would have defended now, as he defended in his lifetime, the right of the East Asian peoples to freedom, equality, and honor, their right to work together in a union of mutual assistance, without interference, oppression, or exploitation from the other races of the world.

The most casual study of Dr. Rizal's life reveals him as a true Oriental. From his youngest days as a student in Manila he fiercely resented any attempt at racial discrimination by the Spaniards who were his fellow-students and he gloried in every demonstration that the students of his race were the equals, if not the superiors in intellect and spirit to those of Spanish descent. Later as a student in Madrid he was inspired by the same desire to bring honor to his country and his race and engaged in numerous controversies with those who maligned the Filipino and the Oriental.

Studied Philippine History

But it was as a scientist and as an historian that Dr. Rizal displayed the truest and most profound Orientalism. In the midst of his hectic and incessant campaigns for reforms in the Philippines, in spite of vicissitudes, difficulties, and privations that would have discouraged any but the most intense and sincere devotion, he found the time to delve deep into the history and the language of the Filipinos to prove that, with an Oriental culture and civilization of their own, they had been far happier and prosperous as a free Asian people than as the subjugated colony of the West.

The record of Dr. Rizal's life in Europe is full of this search for Oriental heritage of the Filipinos. He had a magnificent collection of books and treaties on Oriental races, languages, and culture. He sustained learned correspondence with the greatest European students of these subjects in Germany and England. We find him at one time eagerly reading a criticism of the Dutch colonization of Java; at another time, remarking similarities between the cultures of Sumatra and the Philippines; or yet again, upon reading a study of the Mandayas in Davao, expressing his envy for the lot of these primitive but free Filipinos, happier than those who had fallen under the domination of the West.

We find him also furious with indignation at an exhibition of Igorots in Madrid because these unfortunate countrymen of his were displayed together with animals and plants, a wounding instance of racial discrimination and contempt that was to be repeated in another land; we find him in Berlin absorbed in a lecture on ancient Japanese tombs or soliciting a translation of an historical Chinese record. We find him throughout his stay in Europe and down to the last days of his exile in Capitan working with patient and consuming zeal on a great Tagalog grammar that he hoped would trace the relations of Philippine culture with the other branches of Oriental civilization and would also unify the dialects of the islands into a national language.

Japanese Are Happy

His impressions of Japan during his short stay in this country are by now well known. Writing to his bosom friend, the Austrian professor Blumentritt, from this very city of Tokyo, Dr. Rizal remarked: "Here you have your friend Rizal, the wonder of the Japanese, who has the face of a Japanese but does not speak Japanese." And he continued, remarking on the honesty and integrity of the Japanese, "It is said that the houses remain open, the walls are made of paper, and in the hotels one can safely leave money on the table. The Japanese are happy—fights are not seen on the streets—and they are courteous. Their houses are clean; beggars are rarely seen; and the people are very industrious." And Dr. Rizal concluded: "If I could stay here a couple of years, I would study all this, and I could do it with greater facility than a European because I have the aspect of a Japanese and here, as in the Philippines, there is not much confidence in the European."

One of his biographers remarks that Rizal "fit keenly his inability to speak or understand Japanese. He began to study the language with his usual diligence, such that in a month he could hold a conversation in Japanese with a certain degree of fluency." When it was time for Dr. Rizal to leave, he could write in his diary: "I have spent a lovely, gilded month; I do not know if I can have another one like it in all my life."

Such was Rizal the Oriental, so much an Oriental that as early as his time he was to engage in a heated argument with his best friend the Austrian Blumentritt in defense of the rights of Chinese and Japanese to be admitted for immigration on an equal basis with the Europeans. "I cannot understand," he wrote, "why a colored peasant should not own the soil as much as a European; their work makes them equal." The sentence might well be the slogan of the Co-Prosperity Sphere, this free East Asian union whose basic meaning and purpose is the equality of work and the prosperity that is the fruit of work, among all Orientals as among all the races of mankind.

Denounces Racial Prejudice

But it was in his two novels, the "Noli Me Tangere" and the "Filibusterismo," that Dr. Rizal gave the most moving expression to his profound conviction of the dignity of the Oriental and the equality of races, castigating with all his power the brutalities committed by racial oppression and the stupidities and follies of racial pride, calling with all his eloquence upon his people to shake off all feeling of inferiority and to inspire themselves with the ancient wisdom and dignity of their race.

Not content with writing, Dr. Rizal actually devoted himself to the establishment of an organization which would put into practice this fundamental philosophy and he founded the "Liga Filipina," a national cooperative association of all the Filipinos, dedicated to their unification, self-defense, advancement and prosperity through mutual assistance and brotherly cooperation. Surely we may perceive in the ideals of Dr. Rizal's "Liga Filipina" the same inspiration that now has brought forth the union of East Asia in the Co-Prosperity Sphere, a union which is similarly dedicated to the unification, the dignification, the progress and the peace of its member nations, through liberty and justice, mutual respect and mutual trust, mutual aid and common action for the common good.

That is why I say that we can honor the memory of Dr. Jose Rizal in this East Asian setting with singular appropriateness for he was by no means a narrow patriot who could not see beyond the borders of his native land; he was an Oriental as well as a Filipino and he therefore belongs not only to our people but to the whole of East Asia. In his life he fought for those whom he called "six million oppressed Malays"; he planned to write the great Malayan epic; and he approved the hope of a free Malaysia which would unite all the islands of the southern seas with racial sovereignty rather than under Occidental domination. We are today dedicated to the same growing ideal, the ideal of a free and equal union not only of all Malays but of all Orientals, coexisting and cooperating for the common good on a basis of mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual assistance. That ideal, distant and seemingly hopeless at the time of Dr. Rizal's death, is now a living reality, a vast and unconquerable fortress defended by one billion East Asians whose inevitable victory will be the final and glorious vindication of the lonely sacrifice made by the greatest of the Filipinos.

Turk Journalist Disappointed

Domei

BERLIN, December 29.—Referring to the embitterment of the pro-British Turkish journalist Yaltschin in a recent article by him in which he said that the Atlantic Charter was nothing but a Midsummer Night's Dream, the spokesman of the Wilhelmstrasse, at his press conference, twice read over the main sentence in Yaltschin's article: "We have been idiots if we believed in the promises of the Atlantic Charter." The spokesman emphasized that this sentence was characteristic of the Turkish policy during the last year.

Makino Made Councillor

Viscount Sadasuke Makino, Court Chamberlain, has been appointed Councilor of the Imperial Household Department, according to announcements made on December 30.

MALAYSIA ISLES POPULAR FOR MAGICAL PRACTICES

Medicine Men Still Survive to Propitiate Omnipresent Demons And Hobgoblins

Few places offer such an alluring field for the study of magical beliefs and practices as the islands of Malaysia. In some of these islands the old animistic beliefs have been retained, with little change, by primitive tribes remote from the outside world; in others the old beliefs were overlaid centuries ago with Hindu and Islamic culture. But practically everywhere the medicine man survives, to propitiate the omnipresent demons and hobgoblins by the use of his wits, with or without the aid of herbs, charms, talismans, amulets and witchcraft ceremonies. Often he makes use of a familiar spirit that he has inherited from his forefathers. He is held in especial honor for his capacity and skill.

In order to understand the Malaysian's fundamental belief in magic, let us first analyze his conception of the human soul. This he believes to be a vital force housed in the body but temporarily absent from it in sleep, trance or disease and permanently absent after death. When this soul force leaves the body, it takes shape as a manikin or puppet of a vapoury or filmy essence, about as big as a thumb and corresponding to its embodiment in shape and proportions. The Malaysian endows this soul with quasi-human feelings and believes that if he calls it in the right manner it will hear and obey. He does not consider it at all difficult, for instance, with the aid of some evil spirit, to abduct the soul of one against whom he may bear a grudge; nor does he think it impossible that some enemy may succeed in treating him in like fashion. Although the soul belongs to its host, it is only, as it were, an impersonal substance, which entered the body when the bamboo knife—or in many cases the teeth of the midwife—severed the umbilical cord. All parts of the body where this soul substance is actually present, such as the abdomen, the head and even the hair, have to be guarded against the sorcery of enemies.

Afraid of Darkness

It need not surprise us, therefore, that the people of Malaysia live in constant awe of the powers of demons and spirits. There is not a single Malai village that does not have some secret abode, a tree perhaps, where evil spirits are supposed to dwell. So great is the fear of darkness that nothing save the most pressing need will induce Malais to set out on a journey after dark. If there is no help for it, then they recite their incantations and arm themselves with torches. At first, they move most hesitantly, looking carefully about them; and, when they hear the rustling of a leaf or the sound of some stray animal in the undergrowth, they are sure they are lost. With people thus constituted it is not hard to understand why Malaysia is such a fertile ground for the practices of sorcery.

To trace the origin and development of the Malaian magician, we should have to delve deeply into anthropology and history. First, we should have to consider the Indonesian animist of aboriginal days; then the shaman, or witch doctor (whose ancient cult, originating probably among the Turanian peoples of high Asia somehow found its way to Bali and other islands of the Malai Archipelago, where it still sways sceptre); and lastly, the Malaian medicine man, who in the course of centuries has added to the practices of the Indonesian animist all that the Hindu ascetic and the Mohammedan mystic could teach him. Today Malaysia is, nominally at least, predominantly Islamic. But, when Islam invaded Malaysia and sought to impose its tenets on the people, it found Malaian medicine men already seated at the feet of Indian pundits, from whom they had learned the arts of divination and had borrowed cabalistic talismans.

In only one instance known to the author have the primitive rituals of the very old Indonesian practices survived, and that is in the magic ceremonies prevailing at the rice harvest. When we take away all the names of Hindu deities and the superficial Islamic veneer, we are left with the very essence of a true Malaian ritual, in which Father Sky and Mother Earth, human being and animal, soul substance and spirits of the dead, parade before our eyes, together with living magicians. It is in these rice festivals that the magician, or medicine man, has the field all to himself without the aid of a shaman.

In accounts given by the Malaian natives, the sun and the earth usually have human forms: the sun assumes the form of a man and the earth that of a woman. The earth is also depicted as oval-shaped, revolving upon its own axis four times in the space of a year, while the sun, a circular moving body of fire, was said to be responsible for the alternations of night and day. The more primitive tribal Malai believed in two supreme powers, the sun and the earth, or the Man and the Maiden; and the cannibalistic Dyaks of Borneo seemed to be responsible for the thought that the sun and the earth were the real creators of the world, thus giving rise to the terms "Father Sky" and "Mother Earth," both common in Malaian harvest ceremonies and other rituals. In some very ancient layer of Malaian belief the white spirit of the sun and the black spirit of the moon must have been important adjuncts to witchcraft ceremonies. There was a mysterious black spirit, addressed as the "King of the Earth," who trod along the veins of the earth and slept at its gate; and there is a tribal belief which visualizes this black spirit as a haunter of forest undergrowths, a span in height, bald of temple, frizzy-haired, red-eyed, with white teeth and disfigured hands. Curiously enough, such a description seems to correspond fairly well with the physiognomy of the Negrito, a member of one of the oldest races, if not the oldest, known in Malaysia.

Believed in Stones

Like many other peoples, the more primitive of the Malais make considerable use of sympathetic magic, which is based on the theory that like produces like. On this theory is also founded what we are wont to call the doctrine of signatures, which supposes that plants and minerals indicate by their external characters the diseases nature intends them to remedy. For instance, some of the Malais believe that a yellow turmeric or a saffron plant will cure them of yellow jaundice. Certain stones, such as garnets and carnelians, which in their color suggest flesh, are worn by primitive tribesmen as a cure for skin disease. And as further proof that Malaysians attribute to color certain magic qualities we may cite the frequent use of red woollen thread or stuff, as a counter charm against the evil eye.

The use of the djeruk or lemon, as a magic cure, especially in the treatment of wounds, finds its origin in the belief that the sour taste of the fruit is held in abhorrence by evil spirits. Saliva is also believed to be endowed with more than ordinary magic properties, Malaians say: "Dogs lick their wounds, which heal quickly; so our tribesmen, when wounded, let the dogs lick their wounds." This belief in the efficacy of saliva is very widely diffused. A Battack chief, in a Sumatran village, where a man bitten by a centipede had been treated with chicken saliva, from a feather stuck into the chicken's throat, offered the following explanation: "Since chickens devour centipedes without any ill effect, chicken saliva is sure to neutralize the poison."

According to the belief held by the Dyaks of Borneo, if a man should die of a wound, or of any act of violence, his ghost becomes a vicious demon. A person who is good, on the other hand, is never wounded or hurt and, no matter how violent his life, he will die a natural death.

Almost all Malais fear the ghosts of certain persons, such as men who have lived too long or youths cut off in their prime. Particularly baneful is the ghost of a woman who has perished in childbirth, visualized merely as a woman's neck with trailing viscera that shine at night like fireflies. And perhaps the most feared of all is the childbirth vampire, or burong srabi, as this creature is called among the Atchinese of Northern Sumatra. A rather weird story of its origin was told the author by one of the tribesmen. "This srabi," he said, "was the daughter of a religious teacher. In spite of the strictest discipline, she was seduced and was soon to become a mother. Her lover, on finding this out, asked her to elope with him. While they were resting in the forest on their flight, he made love to her and strangled her. After her death she was transformed into a burong, or evil spirit, which rested not until it had overtaken her lover and killed him. Having thus appeased in some manner her desire for vengeance, she began to indulge in violent and frequent onslaughts on women in childbed and also on expectant mothers and has continued to do so ever since." This story in some form or other prevails throughout Malaysia; yet some people believe such spirits to be ghosts of unchaste women.

As soon as a Malai woman becomes pregnant, she must carry an iron knife as a talisman in order to frustrate the evil spirits that hover near; and the husband, too, must observe certain rules lest a vampire or evil spirit injure her or affect the delivery of the unborn. If he has to go out after dusk, he is not allowed to return directly to his home, but must first visit the house of a friend to put the enterprising spirits off the scent.

Child Birth Rites

In connection with the birth of a child, some strange beliefs prevail. Among the Alfurese tribe of southern Celebes, for instance, when a child is born, a coconut is planted and watered with the fluid in which the after-birth and navel string are washed. As the tree grows, it earns the high-sounding name of "Child's Contemporary," and it is generally believed that, if it withers and dies, the person will die too.

One could list many another dreaded spirit of Malaysia—the bachelor cockfighter, for instance, who is said to abhor liars, the forest demons and the various kitchen demons, the principal one of which the Malai depicts as a dishevelled old hag, shaped like an orangutan, who pursues the highly interesting occupation of peeping into attics where fair maidens sleep. There are many local spirits, feared only by certain tribes. Werewolves cause untold dread; for the belief that human beings can transform themselves into animals is very widespread.

This belief is especially prevalent among the paganistic Toradjas of central Celebes, who live in constant fear not only for wolves but of wild boar, buffaloes, apes and crocodiles into which human beings may have changed themselves. They believe that these animals keep roaming about, feasting on human flesh, liver and blood, though the men and women whose spirits have taken possession of them may actually be sleeping in their own homes. A wound inflicted on such a beast is, however, simultaneously inflicted on the human body of the witch, wherever he or she may be. The Toradjas have an established practice, almost resembling the Gottgercht of the Western world, or proving the guilt or innocence of supposed werewolves by making them dip their middle finger into boiling water or resin or wax.

The most spectacular ceremonies of Malaysian sorcery are doubtless those connected with shamanism—devil's witchcraft, or the black faith, as it is usually called there. Under favorable circumstances, the shaman is taken possession of by a spirit which speaks, oracle fashion, through his mouth while he is in a trance. The special purpose of a shamanistic seance is the foretelling of future events and the expelling of evil spirits from the bodies of those who are sick, sometimes into the shaman's body but more often onto a receptacle that necessarily contains loads of offerings and foods.

Devil's Witchcraft

The author once witnessed a shamanistic seance in Bali. It began at sundown, in an open space at the edge of the village, where a crowd of fully two hundred men and women had gathered. Soon, in the flickering light supplied by torches of resinous palm shoots, a girl appeared—the female shaman. She sat down cross-legged and, to the steady beat of drums, commenced to tremble all over. When the music of the gamelan orchestra became heavier, a tremor convulsed her body in a wavelike progression that went on for several minutes. Suddenly she jumped up wildly, her black hair flying loose, while she cried out, in a soft, long-drawnout nasal tone, that the demons had entered her body.

The orchestra now began a terrific uproar that lasted for some time, while the girl's head, twisting from side to side, revolved on her shoulders, seeming at times as if it would fly off. Unintelligible words began to stream from her lips; two big, glistening tears ran down her cheeks and her face was suddenly distorted into an expression of utmost ferocity. At that moment questions began to rain on her, shot forth from the spectators. In reply she emitted a wide variety of astonishing vocal sounds, sometimes screaming at the top of her overworked lungs, while at other times she muttered so low that the questioners strained anxiously, lest they should miss a word.

The procedure went on uninterruptedly for hours. It must have been just before dawn she, the shaman, suddenly grew rigid, then fell back to the ground, as convulsive tremors shot through her slim young body until it quivered in an obscene ecstasy. Then, after a few minutes, she got up and walked, without a sound, almost disdainfully, from the compound.

The spectators rose and dispersed. Men and women chatted, laughed and proceeded up the road. Six village guards preceded the line of march, beating loudly on hollow bamboo poles to keep the evil spirits away.

Japan Still Strong; Troops Well Armed, Stresses Patterson

Domei

LISBON, December 30.—The Japanese still possess remarkable fighting strength and it is silly to assume that Japan can be easily handled after the European war, said Robert Patterson, U.S. Assistant Secretary of War after returning to Washington from an inspection tour of the Pacific front, according to a report from the U.S. capital. He stressed that the Japanese were better equipped than at the outbreak of war and that manufacturing industries in Japan were maintaining wonderful efficiency.

Correction

Under the heading, "Nippon Air Arm Hits 9 More Vessels Off Mindoro Island" appearing on the first page of the December 31 issue of the Nippon Times, the following corrections are made:

In the first paragraph, "from the night of December 28 to the following morning" should read, "from the night of December 28 to the following afternoon."

On the last line of the first paragraph of the text of the Imperial Headquarters communique "to the following morning" should be "to the following afternoon."

In the first paragraph under the sub head, "Japanese Attack Invaders," "lost eight warships" should read "lost nine warships" and "five large transports" should read "six large transports."

In the second paragraph, "to the following morning" should be "to the following afternoon," and in the third paragraph, "blasted eight more warships" should read "blasted nine more warships."

NEW AID SETUP STUDIED

Rule That Lend-Lease Goods Can't Be Used for Export Unchanged

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, December 29.—Agreement on the continuation of the Lend-Lease Act has raised the critical question as to whether Britain is capable of paying in cash for such raw materials as is necessary for starting export, and critics are already asking whether payment will be made by the extremely strained foreign exchange reserves or by America's purchases of British goods, according to the London correspondent of the Dagensnyheter.

The announcement made by Prime Minister Churchill concerning the agreement, which was reached between the British delegation headed by Lord Keynes, British economic expert, and Washington, is summed up by this paper as follows:

1. Lend-Lease will continue with nearly half the shipments made in 1944 to be sent to Britain, subject to Congress' sanction, on the understanding that the supplies will be used "only for war efforts against the common enemy."

2. The agreement provides for an improvement in supplies to British civilians.

3. It maintains the principle that Lend-Lease goods cannot be used for export, but provision is made for several exceptions. For example, several finished goods and raw materials, mainly steel and other matals, may be taken out of the Lend-Lease in 1945 and paid for by Britain in cash.

Big U.S. Casualties Bared

Domei

BERLIN, December 30.—The United States armed forces within the last fortnight lost 65,900 men without counting the losses which they suffered since the beginning of the German offensive in the west. Including these losses, the total of the American casualties since mid-December alone amounted to 100,000 men. Particularly hard hit were the U.S. 3rd, 7th and 9th Tank Divisions as well as by five infantry divisions which were characterized by their own officers and men as "suicide units." All these divisions which had practically ceased to exist had been engaged in the fighting south of Aachen at the beginning of the German attack.

New Post for Mischer

Domei

LISBON, December 28.—Vice Admiral Marc Mitscher, Commander of the United States 58th carrier force which met its fate in the big air and sea battle off Taiwan, returned to Pearl Harbor today after a 90-day "leave" in the United States and told reporters that he expected another big battle and claimed that the Japanese Fleet "may be practically knocked out by the end of 1945," according to a Pearl Harbor dispatch. The report said he is expected to leave shortly for "another assignment" which was undisclosed, but indicated the non-existence of his former 58th carrier force.

10 U.S. War Vessels Hit in P.I. War Zone By Nippon Air Units

(Continued From Page 1)

of the Shinshu Special Attack Unit caught up with the enemy convoy off San Jose and, launching death-defying attacks, instantaneously sank two cruisers, besides setting ablaze three large transports, one of which was sunk in three minutes.

At the time of these deliberate Japanese aerial onslaughts, about 12 enemy transports were plying in the area south of San Jose. Two of these transports were set ablaze by the Japanese.

In the waters south of San Jose, two large transports and five cruisers or destroyers were seen, of which two cruisers were instantaneously sunk by two planes of the Shinshu Special Attack Air Unit.

NEW REICH PUSH IN ITALY

Domei

LISBON, December 30.—Front dispatches disclosed today that the whole American 5th army front was on the alert against the possibility that the Germans may attempt to follow up their western offensive with a drive aimed at unbalancing the anti-Axis armies in Italy as the Germans renewed attacks along the Serchio River near the Ligurian coast.

The anti-Axis command reported increased movement of German troops and material today in the Tyrrhenian Coastal sector and said the situation in Serchio Valley, 15 miles inland, "remains fluid."

Five days ago the Germans launched a counter-offensive on a six-mile front down the Serchio valley which it is claimed has carried them as far as Fornaci which is a mile and a half south of Barga and representing a gain of about three and a half miles.

American 5th army troops were forced out of Barga and Gallicano before the German drive appeared to have died down.

The exact situation in the coastal sector remained obscure, but reports indicated the possibility that the German were moving substantial force down the west coast.

2 B-29's Over Chubu Area

One B-29 bomber coming from the Marianas penetrated into the skies over the Chubu district shortly after midnight on Saturday but fled at 1 a.m. without dropping any bombs. Another B-29 appeared over the same area at 4:30 a.m. The enemy bomber dropped some explosives before fleeing at 5 a.m. No damage was caused.

THE NIPPON KOGYO GINKO
(The Industrial Bank of Japan, Ltd.)
Established by the Japanese Government by virtue of a Special Enactment of the Imperial Diet.
Capital .... ¥[illegible]
3, 1-chome, Marunouchi, Kojimachi-ku, Tokyo.
Osaka—1, 5-chome, Korai-bashi, Higashi-ku.
Kobe—36 Nishimachi, Kobe-ku.
Nagoya—1, 3-chome, Hirokoji-dori, Naka-ku.
Fukuoka—80 Tenjin-no-cho.
Tohoku—11, Higashi-Ichiban-cho, Sendai.
Toyama—20 Sakurabashi-dori.
Hiroshima—77 Sarugaku-cho.
Hokkaido—1, Nishi 4-chome, Kita-sanjo, Sapporo.
Correspondents—In the principal cities at home and abroad.
Governor: Koichi Kawakami, Esq.
Vice-Governor: Seiichiro Arai, Esq.
Directors: Kenji Ito, Esq., Kisaku Matsushima, Esq., Kikumatsu Nakayama, Esq., Akira Komiya, Esq., Tadao [illegible], Esq.
Auditors: Count Yoshinori Futara, Takajiro Nozu, Esq., Shin Watanabe, Esq.
1.—Loans on the security of public bonds or debentures and shares, estates (zaidan), specified land and buildings.
2.—Subscription and underwriting of public bonds or debentures.
3.—Deposits and safe custody of valuables.
4.—Discounting of bills.
Other Banking business sanctioned by the Minister of State for Finance in accordance with Ordinance.

The Yokohama Specie Bank Limited
Established 1880
Capital (Paid up) ....¥[illegible]
Reserve Funds ....¥[illegible]
PRESIDENT:
H. KASHIWAGI
VICE-PRESIDENTS:
S. ASADA, S. ARAKAWA
DIRECTORS:
H. Kashiwagi, S. Asada, Baron [illegible] Morimura, T. Okubo, I. Okada, Viscount H. Kano, G. Kishinami, T. Ohmura, K. Itoh, N. Kawamura.
Head Office, Yokohama
BRANCHES & AGENCIES
Japan
Fukuoka, Kobe, Moji, Nagasaki, Nagoya, Osaka, Otaru, Tokyo.
Manchoukuo & Mengchiang
Changchiakow, Dairen, Fengtien (Shoseikan & Naniwa), Harbin, Hsinking, Yingkow.
China
Canton, Chefoo, Hankow, Hangchow, Haihow, Hongkong, Kowloon, Kiuhwa, Macao, Nanking, Ningpo, Peking (Tojyo & 7 Ku), Pengpu, Shanghai, Shaohsing, [illegible], Shihhweiyao, Tientsin (Asahi Gai & 3rd St. & Miyajima), [illegible], Tsingtao.
French Indo-China
Haiphong, Hanoi, Saigon.
Thailand
Alor-Star, Bangkok, Kota-Bharu, Kuala-Trengganu.
Burma
Bassein, Lashio, Mandalay, Maymyo, Mergui, Moulmein, Myingyan, Prome, Rangoon, Shwebo, Taunggyi, Tavoy.
Malai
Ipoh, Johore-Bharu, Kuala-Kangsar, Kuala-Lipis, Kuala-Lumpur, Kuantan, Malacca, Penang, Seremban, Shonan, Tandjoeng-Pinang (Shonan), Taiping.
Sumatra
Bencoolen, Bukit-Tinggi, Djambi, Kota-Raja, Lho-Seumawe, Medan, Padang, Pakanbaroe, Palembang, Pangkal-Pinang, Pematang-Siantar, Siboiga, Telok-Betong.
Djawa
Bandoeng, Bodjonegoro, Bogor, Djakarta, (Stationsplein & Noordwijk) Djember, Djogjakarta, Kediri, Madioen, Magelang, Malang, Pamekasan, Pekalongan, Poerwokerto, Semarang, Serang, Soerakarta, Soerabaya, Tjirebon.
Borneo
Api, Burnei, Kuala-Belait, Kuching, Kudat, Miri, Sandakan, Sibu, Tawao.
The Philippines
Manila.
Europe & South America
Berlin, Hamburg, Rio de Janeiro.
Temporarily Closed
(Alexandria, Bombay, Calcutta, Honolulu, Karachi, London, Los Angeles, New York, Paris, San Francisco, Seattle, Sydney).
Every Description of Banking Business Transacted.

TOKYO NEWSPAPERS SEE GERMAN VICTORY AHEAD

Chaos in 'Freed' Areas in Europe, Repudiation of Atlantic Charter Stressed

Unshakable conviction in the ultimate success of the Rundstedt offensive was voiced by the majority of the Tokyo dailies during the week ending December 28.

Other major topics of press comments were the mutual strife among the three major nations in the anti-Axis camp, the existing conditions in France, and President Roosevelt's recent statement regarding the Atlantic Charter.

The Mainichi declares that, although the details of the new German offensive are not known because of the news blackout maintained by the German High Command, there is no doubt that a grave change is now taking place along the entire Western Front. The paper recalls the statement made by Dr. Joseph Goebbels, Reich Minister of Propaganda and National Enlightenment, in the latter part of last November to the effect that the German air forces in the near future would make a wonderful achievement. Such a statement could not have been made without full confidence in the German military power on the part of the German war leaders.

Continuing, the journal points out the completion of preparations made by the Germans and also the fact that the anti-Axis forces have been wailing over their inability to get enough military supplies. "The great opportunity which the Germans had been awaiting has at last arrived. A lightning attack is now being made upon the Anglo-Americans who had been saying that the Germans have no reserve power for a counter-offensive. As to the outcome of the present offensive, we derive much suggestion from the absolute silence maintained by the German High Command. We are absolutely convinced of the successful outcome of the present offensive and await the anticipated good news," the paper emphasized.

The Tokyo Shimbun points out that the German forces had been making their preparations with incredible patience since the invasion of northern France by the Anglo-American forces, and voices its confidence in Germany's power to administer a fatal blow to the invaders. The journal urges that the Japanese people, in living up to the Treaty of Alliance with Germany, should advance toward ultimate victory shoulder to shoulder with their European ally. "The greater the severity of the war situation is, the closer the collaboration between the two nations should be maintained," the paper declares.

Regarding the mutual strife among the leading anti-Axis nations in connection with the prevailing unstable political conditions in wartorn Europe, the Asahi declares that their strife becomes inevitable when they consider the problem of reconstruction for Europe. "Unfortunate are those so-called emancipated nations of Europe who are shaken up in this mutual strife among the leading nations of the anti-Axis camp. Such countries as Italy, Greece and Belgium have been given only nominal liberty by the enemy and not a bit of food, with the result that they are faced by starvation and unspeakable confusion. Those people who are trying to determine the fate of Europe by ignoring the existence of Germany which is the central Power of Europe will be brought to a trial in the near future, now that the Germans are pushing their great offensive along the Western Front," the journal stresses.

The Yomiuri-Hochi takes up the prevailing confusion in France and discusses the relations between war and national morality in connection with the French situation. The paper elucidates that the war which is being carried on by the De Gaulle regime has changed from an international war to domestic strife. "A review of what happened to France from the time of the Dunkirk disaster to the present teaches us the lesson that a nation devoid of real conviction and morality is destined to destruction," the Yomiuri Hochi declares.

The statement made by President Roosevelt on the Atlantic Charter on December 18 is taken up by the Asahi which declares that his statement has made the document a scrap of paper. Those anti-Axis nations who were forced to sign this document by the Anglo-American nations on January 1, 1942 were all fooled by these enemy nations, the journal claims. Continuing, it recalls that the document has been trampled upon by the Anglo-American enemies many times especially in connection with the Polish border question, and says that President Roosevelt should refer to the story of Moses in taking up the Atlantic Charter.

Commenting on the same subject, the Yomiuri-Hochi says that the peoples of the Anglo-American nations as well as their allies have lost their sense of direction now that the Atlantic Charter has been thrown overboard by President Roosevelt. The paper opines that Roosevelt had to make such a foolish statement regarding the Atlantic Charter only after he was driven into a tight corner by the Polish border problem. "But after all, the Atlantic Charter has been a useless thing," the paper states. "However, the passing of a death sentence on this document is bound to create disturbances on the minds of the anti-Axis allies and thus it is disadvantageous for the Anglo-American nations. Thus, they very fact that Roosevelt risked this very disadvantage discloses that he must advance his diplomatic policy toward the Soviet Union by throwing away all past hinderances that stood in his way."

The Tokyo Shimbun is convinced that Roosevelt's statement concerning the Atlantic Charter is in connection with the Polish issue. It claims that Roosevelt desires to nullify by such a public statement the validity of the Second Article of the same document concerning no claims for territorial cession, suggesting that the United States is determined to make such territorial demands. "But such a statement is nothing," the journal goes on, "because of the present great offensive undertaken by the Germans along the entire Western Front which is a great and forceful reality at this moment, so that the Atlantic Charter has lost much of its former importance."

Japanese Thought and Character

Japanese Sense of Order

By SHUNKICHI AKIMOTO
Of the Nippon Times Staff

Anyone seeing how New Year's Day is observed in this country must have been struck with the sense of the great importance the Japanese people attach to the idea of "auspicious beginning." "All will end well that is begun well" seems to be the Japanese motto rather than the Shakespearean "All is well that ends well." It has been sarcastically remarked that we Japanese are very anxious to begin a thing in a lucky manner but that we don't care a hang how it ends. There is more humor than truth in this charge.

It is simply because we devoutly wish a successful ending or completion of a plan that we want to start it in a right way. The New Year celebration, or elaborate preparations and joyous festivities connected with it, are a good illustration of this mood. It is human nature to think that the first day of the first month of a new year possesses an auspicious significance, and indeed it has fairly become a national faith, not to say superstition, that "as the plan of a whole day is decided in the morning, so is the plan of a year on New Year's Day." The quoted remark is that of Kusunoki Masashige, the famous strategist and loyalist and has therefore received a double signification. Yes, we all desire to pass this precious day in an ideal manner, for once entertaining not a mean thought, uttering no unkind word, making no sour face, but making the first lucky entry in the brand new diary, not forgetting to register great New Year resolutions, that the happy gods hovering about our house, ready to enter, may not be scared away.

This idea may be of Chinese origin as it is necessarily connected with the Calendar which was first borrowed probably from China. In fact, as everyone knows, New Year's Day is a bigger holiday in China than anywhere else; certainly noisier because of the crackers let loose and more colorful as red which is China's symbolic color of joy and happiness is in evidence everywhere.

But this custom of honoring all beginnings, New Year's Day in particular is not Oriental exclusively. It is universal. In Western folklore and literature as well as in Western customs we see the same idea unmistakably embodied, forming the psychological background of many social and domestic functions perhaps unconsciously observed. It may be remembered that most of the Western customs connected with the Christian religion have been derived originally from Oriental sources: Sunday from the Sabbath and Easter from the Passover of the Hebrew race and Christmas itself from the Roman festival kept in honor of winter solstice observed in ancient Babylonia about December 25. These festivals center upon the idea of auspicious beginning; they celebrate the days of birth, resurrection, ascension all symbolical of passing off of the old order and coming in of the new—a change for the better!

Cult of Good Beginning

If some people, as hinted above, pretend to be careless as to how things are begun so long as they get what they want in the end, we must say they are only cleverly practical not so really wise as they seem. "To begin well" really means "to do well all the time." Strictly speaking, there is no beginning of anything. To start a day well, we must not "go to bed tomorrow," or wake with "morning after" brains. A good night's sleep is necessary, and it must be preceded by a fair day's work, and so on back, confirming the transcendental theory that every new beginning has a previous beginning. Thus the spirit of New Year's Day is justified; it is a cultus, almost a religion, if it is magnified into the principle of conduct, every day is in a sense a New Year's Day.

The same idea is as fully borne out in our ideographical system as in our literature and customs. The character for "one," represented by a single sidelong stroke "—" is read "hajime" (beginning) as well as "ichi" (one). Extremely simple, as it looks, it is fraught with many deep and abstruse significances. While expert calligraphists will tell you that it is the most difficult character to write well, our dictionary devotes more than half a dozen pages to its elucidation whereas most characters of many strokes and complicated shape are given a few lines, at most a few pages. In every language "oneness" stands for "first" in quality as well as for "beginning" in number, associated with "A 1." But this somewhat vulgar meaning will sink into insignificance when its moral and spiritual connotations are remembered. Oneness means "unity," leading thence to the idea of "universe" and "universality." By implication it stands for purity and genuineness, as being free from alloy and imitation, and therefore also truth, integrity, chastity, loyalty, so closely linked to the quality of singleness, entirety, wholeness, whole-heartedness. His Imperial Majesty is often reverently called "Kami Go-ichinin" (One august person above).

Principle of Order

From this has naturally evolved the ethical idea of paying high respect to a person on top of affairs, or one in position to guide, teach or rule others—the father in a family, or the oldest son when the parents are absent or too old; teacher of a school, governor of a province; and generally those in high positions or "kami" (upper). This is the important principle of "Order" so zealously inculcated by Confucius. One of the fundamental doctrines of Confucian ethics was the ideal of Good Order. This is very natural, considering the chaotic state of the age he lived in, and it explains why his system is regarded as a code of social and political morality rather than a religion. What is culture, art, even virtue, or religion itself in the world if it is in chaos or drenched in blood of war? Confucius therefore preached that the first requisite of human society was order, just as the first gift of God in the creation was light. Throughout his quoted sayings are scattered many sonorous words uttered in praise of this quality. In human relations, for instance, he taught there is an inviolable order, as between parents and children, bound with ties of affection and filial piety, between rulers and rulers bound with ties of benevolence and loyalty, and between husbands and wives, elders and youngers, men and women, friends and comrades, and so on. In the realm of conduct too there is, or ought to be, order. As one can not grow at a bound from baby to hoary age, neither can one by the waving of the want produce an ideal republic or well-ordered society: there is the "inevitable law of gradualness" evolving from cause to effect. This is well illustrated in the famous recite for ensuring the "enduring peace and prosperity of the empire," contained in the closing part of the "Great Learning."

As Confucius Views

"All things," says Confucius, "have causes and consequences, and human affairs are ruled by the law of beginning and ending. To know what should come first and what should come after is to approximate to the truth. Our wise ancient rulers who illuminated with their own virtue the administration of the empire, first placed their own provinces in good order. But before placing their province in good order, they had put their own family in good order. Before putting their family in good order, they had perfected their own character; before perfecting their character they had cultivated sincerity of heart; before cultivating sincerity of heart they had obtained knowledge; and their knowledge was acquired by diligent study and investigation." Then he turns round the argument saying, "Out of study comes knowledge, out of knowledge sincerity of heart; sincere heart begets great personality which in turn makes for well-regulated home life; well-regulated home life leads to good government in the province; and the province well governed must conduce to the peace and tranquillity of the empire" (or the world, as we may say).

Was this sense of order then an exclusively Confucian virtue which Japan had not known before his time? As already said in a previous article Confucianism in this respect as in others, served to confirm and emphasize the same principles indigenous to the Japanese soil. We have but to recall numerous laws and precepts which have been handed down from the age of the deities before Confucius was ever heard of. Of these we need quote only one—the most important—pertaining to the fundamental order of Japanese empire, namely, the decree of the Sun Goddess solemnly ordaining that this country should be ruled by her grandson, Ninigi-no-Mikoto and his direct descendants in unbroken succession as long as heaven and earth shall endure. It is the basic order clearly defining the relations between rulers and ruled in this island empire, of which all other orders, domestic, social and political, are but the reflex and emanations.

Domestic Order

Some sort of order must exist in every country or community worthy of the name, but in no other is it developed to a more refined and exquisite state of perfection than it is in this country. This is not a mere patriotic or nationalistic boast. It is a fact testified to by every foreigner, friend or foe, who ever set foot in this land. The moment you have crossed the threshold of a Japanese home, be it of prince of peasant, you will know it is an abode of good order, a regular Japanese empire in miniature, in which every member, vested with his own duties and responsibilities no less than privileges and quite free in the exercise of these, contributes in his distinctive fashion toward the general felicity of the household, his happiness reflected in the happiness of all his family and the happiness of the whole reflected in his. It is like a good poem, made of many lines and stanzas, each beautiful in itself, help severally and indispensably to make a perfect gem serene.

Such glowing encomium holds especially true in regard to the country farmer's home, as every person will avow who has had the good luck to be a guest at such a home. Here the life is both simple and complex. The central theme is farming, of course, and it is chiefly done by men folk, but to let them do their best women and junior members must help, each according to his rank and position, that is, according to his talent, capacity and experience; there is not a member, not even a pig, fowl or dog but has its place in the universal scheme of life. At their meal time and in hours of relaxation they will sit round the hearth, the master pontifical on his throne, as it were, his wife close to him on the next side, and so on down to children and servants, and if a friend happens to come he is probably asked to sit on the opposite side facing the master, close to the mistress; and such arrangement of seats is inviolable, no junior members ever daring to encroach on the elders.

Go where you will, you will not find a Japanese home modelled on the American pattern, of which each member is answerable only to himself or herself; in which everyone, provided with a latch-key, goes out and comes in whenever he likes, taking his meals in his room and at his convenience, and each following his or her own "career" and scheme of life, independent of all others, and therefore neither knowing nor caring to know what the others are doing within or without. They are more like the tenants of an apartment house rather than members of a household. Such arrangement, doubtless satisfactory in a "democratic" country, would be considered sheer chaos in Japan, even in modernistic urban parts where several members of one household are engaged in different occupations outside of their home. We know that even in England and America there has been in recent years a growing tendency to publicly deplore the "family decay" as a national calamity or a possible cause of national decadence.

Different Orders

Be it said, however, that the order of one country is not or cannot be that of another always. In some countries it is purely political, in others economic, yet in others moral or religious. "Time there was before England's grief began" when in that country a fair measure of social and domestic order reigned, as we may infer from Goldsmith's lamentation over the loss of it, or from Pope's apotheosis of order as "heaven's first law." But such order has long since been largely, if not entirely, replaced by as the world knows, by the political or rather Imperialistic order of tying up diverse far-flung nations of East and West as one "portable" bundle, professedly for the welfare of all but in reality for that of the ruling classes of the mother country, at which every other kind of order is ruthlessly sacrificed. Whether or not such order is better or worse or whether it is of more enduring nature than the older is now being tested in the crucible of war.

Turning to America we find that country is being ruled by Business Order, that is, of commerce and industry, or of technical efficiency and organization embraced under the hideous word "technology," in which have been swallowed all other orders such as Confucius's five human relationships. The fearful efficacy of this American order is being demonstrated to the terror of the whole world by the inexhaustible supply of engines of destruction with which to feed the bottomless maw of War. Of this business order the great controlling power and principle, needless to say, is money. Perhaps there is no reason why such category of order should not prevail in a country like America any more than in fish-market, stock-market, money-market where human values are below par. Indeed in the absence of other orders this may even be the best possible order to provide an effective incentive to effort or a strong lever with which to keep the heterogeneous mass of unruly people like Americans under some semblance of control. The question is whether it is of a permanently beneficial or salutary order calculated to promote the greatest happiness of the greatest number even in a material sense.

Averting our eyes from the two countries where the national order is maintained or precariously maintained—in the one by Imperialistic system of exploiting the weaker races, in the other by the allurement of the yellow metal at the sacrifice of higher values—we return with a deep sigh of relief to the contemplation of this modest little empire of Japan where the national order is centered upon and emanates from the gracious institution of the Imperial Throne, the source of all benefactions. It sends out, as the sun does on the grateful earth below, multiple life-giving rays on the Japanese people who think themselves the happiest mortals on earth. Therefore on this auspicious day at the beginning of a New Year when the thought of every loyal subject turns unbidden toward the Nijubashi we humbly unite with the rest of the Empire in reverent prayer for the health and prosperity of our beloved Sovereign and all the members of His Household.

PRESS COMMENTS

Sunday, December 31

ENEMY FACES HIS GREATEST CRISIS

TOKYO SHIMBUN—Supply questions are now harassing the Anglo-Americans. Robert P. Patterson, U.S. Assistant Secretary of War, on November 13 last complained of the enormous consumption of ammunition, saying: "Eisenhower's army on the Western Front is using in 10 days what is expected to last 35 days. Congressman R. John Thomas, Republican of Idaho, who recently visited Europe, declared "the American citizens, who hear nothing but good news, cannot imagine the great shortage of materials now being experienced by the anti-Axis forces on the Western Front."

In a press interview given on December 21, Brigadier-General Robert McClure of the United States Army in China openly announced that the United States cannot supply Chungking with more supplies than are being sent to the regime at present. The fact that the Anglo-Americans are experiencing great difficulties in satisfactorily supplying the anti-Axis forces is easily observable from the following interpretation of the latest condition of the British forces in Asia as broadcast by the BBC on December 22: "The British forces in India are now confronted with shortages both in food and supplies and statements are now being spread to the effect that these forces might rise in revolt shortly."

The above shows that the Anglo-Americans cannot keep their fighting forces satisfactorily supplied for all their power of production. In this connection, we must not overlook the fact that their troubles in a great measure arises from transport difficulties.

At present, the Anglo-Americans are maintaining at least 7 to 8,000,000 men in different fronts abroad. If every soldier of the Anglo-American forces requires 10 tons of supplies a month, it means that at least 70,000,000 tons of ships must be used in order to keep these men well supplied. If the want of every British or American soldier is reduced to six tons a month, 42,000,000 tons of ships still must be used. According to Lieutenant-General Alexander Vandergrift, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, America requires twice as much shipping space to keep one American soldier on the Pacific Front perfectly equipped as is required by one soldier fighting on the European Front. In addition to the ships required in this connection, the United States must use an enormous tonnage of ships for transporting reinforcements, transferring fighting units from one place to another, transporting munitions and ammunition in accordance with the Lend-Lease act, as well as for the shipping of daily commodities for the American people at home. The ships required in this connection will reach about one-half of the tonnage required for transporting supplies to the American forces abroad.

Taking these matters into account, the Anglo-Americans need from 63,000,000 to 100,500,000 tons of ships. The United States, however, has not more than 40,000,000 tons, while Britain cannot have more than 12,000,000 tons or 13,000,000 tons at the most. This makes a total of 53,000,000 tons at the best, which covers only 50 to 80 per cent of the minimum tonnage they require. Besides, there are some ships taken from the former Axis-nations, or from various neutral nations which however, amount to little. To make matters worse, these countries are now in great distress from want of food and clothing, and instead of helping the Anglo-Americans, they are crying for immediate help from them. And refusal of their urgent request will most probably result in the disappearance of the Anglo-American influence in these European countries. This is why Richard K. Law, British Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has gone to the United States to discuss various questions in this connection at Washington.

But, it must be too heavy a task for the Anglo-Americans to supply all these small nations of Europe with a total population of nearly 200,000,000 with food and clothing. In this connection an A.P. correspondent on December 26 stated that the Anglo-American are experiencing great difficulty in revising their plan of military operations, so it is out of the question to consider the fundamental revision of their plan to send supplies to the various nations of the anti-Axis nations at this moment.

It is clear to all that the productive power of the Anglo-Americans, which is the very source of supply to all anti-Axis nations, is already on the wane. Thus, the Anglo-Americans are now confronted with the greatest crisis ever known since the outbreak of the current war. This, in other words, means that we are now enjoying the biggest chance of victory in the present war. We believe that the leaders of our country nation will make the most of this great chance in 1945.

TOKYO-NAGOYA LINE OPENS

Metropolitan Trams to Cease Operating at 11 p.m.

Starting Sunday, a direct train will run on the Chuo Line leaving Nagoya at 11:10 p.m. and reaching Shinjuku at 11:14 a.m. while from January 1, train No. 425 will leave Shinjuku at 4:30 p.m. arriving at Nagoya at 5:37 a.m. the following day.

For some time travelling by the Tokaido Line has been restricted to people with military and official assignments and ordinary civilians have been compelled to travel by the Chuo Line. Travellers by the Chuo Line have been obliged to change cars at Shiojiri and the Transportation and Communications Ministry has decided to operate the two direct trains to ease the situation.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan tram service on all lines will cease to operate one hour earlier than hitherto beginning January 1. Consequently the last car will enter the terminus at 11 p.m. instead of 12 p.m. as at present and will pass most of the main stops at around 10 p.m. Furthermore, a 10 per cent increase will be effected in the tram service during the morning and evening rush hours.

Classified Ads.

Advertisements or replies to the same by POSTCARD, should be TYPEWRITTEN and accompanied by the nationality, name and address of the sender in Japanese.

Help Wanted

ENGLISH speaking young Japanese lady (or Nisei) as secretary. Apply with curriculum vitae to Box 233, Nippon Times, Tokyo.

Real Estate, Wanted

REAL estate, bought, sold or administered. Apply to Kurosawa Real Estate Agency, 126 Furuichi-cho, Kamata-ku, Tokyo. Tel. Kamata 3517.

For Rent

ELEGANT completely furnished house in Azabu, with telephone and central heating, very comfortable. Please write to Mrs. Watanabe, Midorigaoka, Kutsukake, Karuizawa, Nagano-ken.

IN good located foreign style house in Omori, up to 3 rooms, furnished or unfurnished with use of kitchen. For meals special arrangement can be made. Apply Box 347, Nippon Times, Tokyo.

For Sale

BEAUTIFUL Chinese table, Chinese flower vase and some oil paintings. Apply Box 345, Nippon Times, Tokyo.

STRONG and pure Indian curry-powder. Also genuine saffron. Write or call on Seto, 16, Nakajima-dori Nichome, Kobe. Phone Fukiai 6449.

Wanted to Buy

GRAMOPHONES, records, electric gramophones, radio-gramophones, pianos, organs, accordions, refrigerators, sewing machines, electric razors, foreign furniture, new or used wanted. Attractive prices paid. Please write or phone Rhythm-sha, 16 Jimbo-cho Itchome, Kanda, Tokyo. Tel. Kanda 25-4459.

Instruction

NIPPON MUSIC HIGH SCHOOL. Singing; piano, violin, and other instruments; chorus, ensemble playing, theory, composition. Class and individual teaching by foremost Japanese and foreign professors. Omori-ku, Iriarai 1-chome 194. Phone Omori 06-6149. New term from January 8.

Professional Notices

DENTAL

HIDEYOSHI Dental Office. Dr. I. Hideyoshi. Bridge and porcelain work, and general dental operations. Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hideyoshi Bldg., 5-chome, Ginza Nishi, on the street leading to the Ginza from the Imperial Hotel side entrance. Tel. Ginza (57) 1210, 3652, 3653.

K. IIZUKA, D.D.S. Specialist in crown, bridge and porcelain work. Office hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Room 654 (6th floor). Marunouchi Bldg., Tokyo. Tel. Marunouchi 23-0648.

MASSAGE

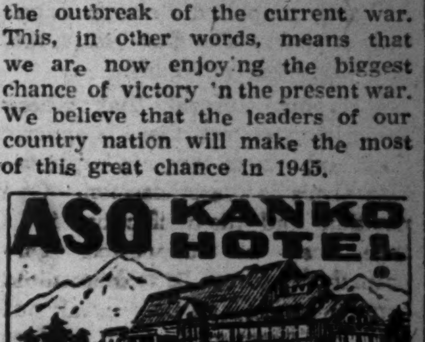
MASSEUR and masseuse. Will call on appointment. Legation and embassy staff and prominent foreigners are listed among our patrons. Makimura Chiryo-sho. 23 Sakuragawa-cho, Shiba-ku. Tel. Shiba 43-3787.

MEDICAL

HIBIYA HOSPITAL. Surgery, skin and blood diseases. Director, Dr. S. Fukase, M.D. English and German spoken. Hours: 9-11 a.m., 2-6 p.m. 3 minutes from the Imperial Hotel and Shimbashi Station. Tel. Ginza 57-2690.

PROF. Dr. K. Nakajima, skin and blood disease specialist. English, French and German spoken. Hours: 9-12 a.m., 2-6 p.m., mornings only on Sundays and National holidays. 1 Ginza-nishi 5-chome, 2nd floor of Taya Store on street car line from Sukiyabashi, a few blocks from Imperial Hotel side entrance. Tel. Ginza 57-0315.

DR. M. TAKAHASHI (A.B., M.D. Stanford University). Specialist in ear, nose, and throat. Completely equipped lying-in facilities, 200 yards from Meguro Tram-stop. Shimo-meguro, 1-119, Meguro-ku, Tokyo. Hours by appointment. Tel. Osaki 49-0417.



ASO KANKO HOTEL

Im Aso—National-Park
Schonster Kurort auf Kyushu
Aktiver Vulkan und
Natur-Wunder
Preise (E. P.): Einbettig ¥8.00 an
Zweibettig ¥6.00 an
Central Heizung

COMPLETE OPTICAL SERVICE

SAVE and PROTECT Your EYES
EXPERT TESTS and FITTINGS
to Your Requirements in
All Our Optical Work

S. Matsushima
Opticians
1, 3-chome, Ginza
Tel. Kyobashi 56-0374
A few doors past Itoya stations

Japan's Fighting Strength Is On the Rapid Upswing.

H.K

KADOYA & CO.
Isogami-dori 5-chome, Fukiai-ku,
KOBE, NIPPON

Manufacturers and Exporters
of
All Kinds of RUBBER GOODS.

Branch: 5 Bakuro-cho 3-chome, Nihonbashi-ku, TOKYO.

KABUSHIKI KAISHA
MATSUMURA-GUMI

President:
Y. MATSUMURA

CIVIL ENGINEERING and
BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Head Office:
OSAKA, NIPPON

Branches: PEKING, MANILA

SHIONO'S
VITAMIN B
PREPARATIONS

VITAMIN B_1
NEO-PARANUTRIN
VITAMIN B COMPLEX
PARANUTRIN
VITAMIN B&C
JUVAMON

SHIONOGI SEIYAKU K.K.
OSAKA, NIPPON

Nippon Times
Published by The Nippon Times, Ltd.

TOKYO OFFICE:
1, Itchome, Uchisaiwai-cho. Kojimachi-ku. Central P.O. Box 144, 352, 358.
Telephone: Ginza (57) 303, 403, 5857, 5858, 5859, 7003.
Telegraphic Address: "Times Tokyo-yubin."
Furikae No. Tokyo 64848.

BRANCH OFFICES:
OSAKA: Dojima Bldg. Tel. Kita 1770.
KOBE: 65, Naniwa-machi, Kobe-ku, Tel. Sannomiya 3970-7.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One month, ¥6.00; six months, ¥35.00; one year, ¥68.00. Postage free to all parts of the Japanese Empire, Manchoukuo, China and the Southern Regions. For foreign countries, postage, ¥1.50 per month extra. All subscriptions are payable in advance.

Publisher and Printer
SHOICHI KAWAMURA

TOKYO, MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1945

The New Year

Resplendent under the brilliant rays of the rising sun, warring Japan today greets another New Year, the 2605th since the founding of the Empire. Japan and her gallant allies in the East and in the West greet the dawning New Year with surging confidence, unswerving determination and well-founded hopes, for they have fought powerfully through a difficult year and they now see coming rapidly within their grasp the opportunity to swing the conflict decisively in their favor.

The year 1944 just past has ended in dismal disappointment for the anti-Axis nations. For despite the fact that they had warned their peoples against unfounded over-optimism, the anti-Axis leaders themselves had been guilty of that very thing and had expected at least to hammer Germany into a moribund state if they could not bring about her defeat within the year. Winston Churchill, for example, had been making optimistic predictions, although of late he had been revising his schedule. Churchill evidently was convinced that a victory worth talking about would be scored by the anti-Axis forces during the closing part of the year, for he predicted on November 29 that he would be able to report happy tidings after Christmas.

But the actual developments completely upset these wishful expectations. With the German forces striking out in a furious new counteroffensive, the Anglo-Americans have had to pass a bleak yuletide indeed. In place of the happy tidings promised by Churchill, they have had to listen to dark, disheartening news. The hopes and plans of the anti-Axis leaders to bring the war against Germany to a close by the end of the year and to throw their whole strength against Japan in 1945 was definitely destroyed.

On the other hand, it must be acknowledged that the year 1944 was likewise not an easy one for the Axis side. Japan's gallant German ally was faced with a situation in which it was forced to fight on its own soil against the onslaughts of its enemies on both the Western and Eastern fronts. The acknowledgedly hard situation, however, brought out the true mettle of the heroic German people and as the year drew to a close they struck out in a telling counteroffensive.

While the German ally was fighting a difficult battle on the Western and Eastern front, Japan, too, was faced with a persistent enemy drive in the Pacific. The gravity of the situation was described in these words by His Majesty the Emperor in the Imperial Rescript granted on the occasion of the opening of the Diet in September: "Day by day, there is an addition to the urgency of the war situation." Since that time, however, the Japanese Forces have been boxing skilfully with the madly onrushing enemy and have been dealing him staggering blows. They are fighting now to grasp the opportunity to shift at a stroke from the defensive to the offensive.

Japan and her allies greet this New Year with confidence that it will be a year in which the German ally will expand further the effects of its counteroffensive and secure its position for certain victory. They are also confident that Japan, too, will destroy the enemy's offensive and secure again a position such as she had established during the early part of the war.

On land, on the sea, and in the air, the gallant officers and men of the Japanese fighting services are hurling themselves at the enemy with the very same spirit possessed by the members of the Special Attack Corps. With this spirit motivating their every move, the Japanese Forces cannot but emerge triumphant. The people on the home front, too, are driving for final victory with the very same faith possessed by the fighting men at the front. The firmly welded unity of the front lines and the home front must certainly lead to the destruction of the enemy's wild hopes, to the favorable turning of the war situation and thus to the completion of the foundation upon which to advance to final victory.

As is by now patently established, the war aims respectively of the Japanese and of the Anglo-Americans stand in fundamental opposition. The Anglo-American war aims lie in establishing a world structure which they hope to utilize to perpetuate their evil gains and to continue to exploit and oppress the meek and the weak. It follows that their objective in East Asia is to recover for themselves the now independent Burma and the Philippines and to stamp out with their heels the rising flame of independence being manifested by India's patriots.

In sharp contrast, the Japanese war aims in the War of Greater East Asia, as reiterated by Foreign Minister Shigemitsu in his answer to interpellations by Yusuke Tsurumi in the Diet session in September, are to liberate the oppressed, to rescue the exploited, to bring about political equality and economic reciprocity, to develop good neighborliness, and thus to realize universal amity and friendship and establish lasting peace. Moreover, these aims are steadily being brought toward fulfilment. Burma and the Philippines have already become independent and the drive for Indian independence is being propelled through Japanese support. The East Indies, too, is nearing full nationhood.

It is but natural that where there is oppression there is opposition, and where there is exploitation there is dissatisfaction. Opposition and dissatisfaction, it is true, may be suppressed temporarily by force. But there must come a time when they break out and be translated into violent action. Where there are opposition and dissatisfaction there cannot be permanent peace. For that reason permanent peace cannot be attained through the realization of the Anglo-American aims.

It follows that the attainment of the Japanese war aims is the only way to permanent peace. Japan, however, must win the war to realize these noble war aims. Should the Anglo-Americans manage to win the war, they will be able to realize their war aims, which will mean that Greater East Asia will see the return of the evil Anglo-American sway of oppression and exploitation. It will also mean that the world's peace will again be threatened.

With these thoughts in mind the Japanese people realize that they must win the war. They know that last year was a year of mounting hardships, but they are determined that this year shall be a year in which they will bring about a turning point to the situation and gain a position from which to roll forward to final victory.

So today is a day when every inhabitant of Japan renews his determination to accomplish his given task in the nation's war efforts with the same spirit possessed by the members of the Special Attack Corps when they hurl themselves against the enemy. The Japanese are also confident that victory will be theirs, for with their noble war aims clearly established there is wholehearted cooperation from all the one billion inhabitants of East Asia. Japan and her allies therefore greet the New Year today with great hopes, hopes as great as was the disappointment of the Anglo-Americans at the end of the past year.

A Year Ago Today

January 1, 1944

More than 237 enemy war vessels were either sunk or damaged during 1943 by the German Navy in its operations against the Anglo-American navy. During the past year, the Reich navy sank one aircraft carrier, six cruisers, 63 destroyers, 18 submarines, three corvettes, 56 torpedo boats, 15 other war vessels and several midget submarines. Those damaged included five enemy cruisers, 10 destroyers and more than 60 torpedo boats.

ECONOMIC FUTURE OF U.S.

President Roosevelt No Longer Leads Public Opinion

II

Thirdly, Soviet Russia is using to good political advantage the resistance shown by the Soviet forces during the winter of 1941 before the gates of Moscow and the heroism of the Red Army at Stalingrad. The Soviet Union today stands with her head high and advances the principle that "everyone among the conquerors deserves that which he conquered."

Fourthly, the war in the Pacific which is now rapidly intensifying is a terrible one. It is being fought in jungles thousands of miles away from home. Malaria and other tropical diseases are taking their toll of the American soldiers. The Japanese are remarkable fighters. They do not give themselves up even when greatly outnumbered. No quarter is asked or given—it is a struggle for life and death. The Americans are beginning to realize that the war against Japan will cost a lot of human lives.

In spite of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's periodical assurances the Americans are fully aware that they shall have to bear the brunt of the war by themselves and see this struggle to its end alone.

Fifthly, the South American Republics are not receptive to the control established by England and the United States and are waiting for a favorable moment to get rid of it. Sixthly, although the war in Italy was comparatively easy, the campaign cost the United States a great deal in men and material. Seventhly, the Italians, French and other peoples of Europe are not friendly toward the Americans and are blaming the Americans for the destruction of their historic and cultural buildings through their air war.

Roosevelt's Behavior Changing

President Roosevelt's behavior has become strange since one year and a half ago. He no longer actively leads public opinion as during the year before the outbreak of war and soon after Pearl Harbor. He talks very seldom nowadays and when he does, he evades all questions concerning war aims and peace principles.

Vice-President Henry Wallace who is next to the President in expressing the opinions and aims of the United States Government and in bearing the main burden for the formulation of a new world of political ideals, also disappeared from public life. Roosevelt personally destroyed Wallace's official and public position. Arising out of the personal conflict between Wallace and Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce, Roosevelt made him resign from his position as Chief of Economic Warfare. Wallace still makes speeches before the workers but he directs his efforts mostly toward internal problems. Anyway is is quite clear that he no longer speaks in the name of the President or the United States Government.

Sumner Welles also disappeared from the political stage. He was a close collaborator of Cordell Hull in the State Department. He used to talk with Government authority but he was dismissed officially under the pretext that his wife was ill but in reality because he began expressing opinion quite independent of the Government on war questions.

Making Wilson's Mistake

Why did Roosevelt get rid of his best collaborators? Where does America stand today? What does she think about peace? Roosevelt is silent and withdrawing into his shell more and more. He is silent but acts rather queerly. He no longer pays attention to the opinions of others. His friends insist that he is preparing for peace and that he is determined to include the United States in the international postwar world order. But many are of the opinion that Roosevelt is making the same mistake as President Wilson who, in his time, did not maintain sufficient contact with Congress and American public opinion.

The second explanation why Roosevelt is silent is that in his negotiations with Britain and the Soviet Union he does not wish to commit himself but such an attitude cannot have a favorable effect on any negotiation. But then comes the question as to how will Roosevelt make his countrymen accept the results and fruits of this policy. One explanation is that Roosevelt, being so absorbed in leading the war, has no time for the planning of peace. According to some, Roosevelt spends the whole day playing with war maps and reading frontline reports and it seems obvious that he would like to play a big role in the war.

Another reason for the change in Roosevelt is that he is growing old and worn out, is getting skeptical and cynical especially toward outlooks for peace. Where lies the truth? One report states that Roosevelt's silence on war aims has a very worrying effect on the American people. America is suffering from Shylock complex.

Everywhere it is believed that England, very cunningly and farsightedly, is rebuilding her Empire at America's expense while the Soviet Union is following the very selfish policy of taking advantage of a slowly-gaining internationalism in America.

Pride about the gigantic war production is being darkened by worries that the whole Lend-Lease system is being managed too generously. Plans for large investments in China's reconstruction are being criticized by certain circles who desire to know to what extent China can unite around the Government after the war and whether such an administration can prevent inflation, put an end to corruption and avert civil wars so that at least some semblance of order can be created for the maintainance of business activities.

It is the general opinion in the United States that the Americans are good and generous while all foreigners are selfish and greedy. Even staid experts and politicians are sharing this opinion. Last year when Roosevelt made his eleventh report to Congress about Lend-Lease deliveries, he said that it might not be necessary for America to claim payments. The reply made by Congress was very sharp and Roosevelt had to admit that this part of the speech had been added by the secretary without his knowledge.

There has always been grounds for historical and social irritation toward Great Britain. Of course, there is not, however, the possibility of war between the two countries. They only lack collaboration for the restoration of peace. It is said about the British that "their policy is reserved." British diplomats "are like the Russians" is another ironical expression. But in reality, behind the British reserve, there is absolutely nothing hidden at the moment as they are only waiting and adjusting themselves to present conditions for the time being because they are dependent on the United States.

And what is the U.S. attitude toward the Soviet Union? It is even more complicated. In 1930 the American stand was positively negative although Russian literature was abundantly available in the United States and many powerful American financial concerns were interested in the Soviet Union.

(To Be Concluded)

THE PRINCIPLE OF NATIONALITY IN GREATER EAST ASIA

By JAPONICUS

I

The rise of nationalism or the principle of nationality was one of the later phases in the development of the community of Renaissance sovereign states. The new monarchic states which emerged out of the decline of the Holy Roman Empire were not based on nationality. They were not bound intimately together by the ties of blood, language, customs, religion, and traditions. Dynastic wars down to the French Revolution, however, created a general consciousness of kind among the English, French, Spanish, Dutch and other peoples in Europe. Thus the Hundred Years' War gave rise to a spirit of solidarity among the French for the defence of la douce France against the English aggressor, and the memories of the exploits of Drake and of the defeat of the Spanish Armada deepened the sentiment of the English for Marrie England. Moreover, a most complex combination of factors, such as the invention of printing, the decline of Latin as the universal language, the suppression of feudal lords by monarchs, the rise of the middle classes, mercantilist policies, the rise of protestantism, humanitarianism, individualism and democracy,—contributed to accelerate this trend toward nationalism. Family relationship as between reigning dynasties and animosities between religions ceased to constitute any cause making for peace and war, and they were replaced by nationalism.

In England the divine right Stuart monarchy gave way to an aristocratic Parliament under the Hanoverian Kings. The government pursued nationalistic policies which coincided with the class interests of the members of parliament who were drawn from the upper and the middle classes, but acclaimed by the whole nation. The English as a whole had a pride in the English traditions transmitted by their mother tongue, and national sentiments and ideology were nurtured by poets like John Milton, by philosophers like John Locke, by jurists like William Blackstone, and by statesmen like Edmund Burke.

On the Continent, France was the first country to develop nationalism, but antagonism between classes and traditional localism militated much more against its growth than in England. In Germany there existed some 300 virtually independent states—a hodgepodge of kingdoms, duchies, counties and free cities. There were, moreover, sharp stratifications between the classes. The upper classes served not the national interests but those of their own and of their princes. They despised the German language as vulgar and used French according to the fashion of the day. No intellectual in Germany thought of political unity based on German nationality. Similar situations prevailed in other parts of Europe.

The French Revolution ushered in a strong current of nationalism in Europe. First of all, it created a centralized national state in France, abolishing the distinctions between classes and localities. A national flag, a national anthem and national holidays were adopted. Such measures as linguistic uniformity, general elementary education on a national basis, conscription for military service all indicated a new nationalistic era for France. The ancient word "patria," which originally meant a town or country, and its derivative "patriotism" definitely came to acquire a new meaning in the European languages. France afforded, then, a model for other national states emerging in Europe in the course of the 19th century. Moreover, with the revolutionary doctrines of national sovereignty and and rights of man were introduced the doctrine of revolutionary national self-determination, a doctrine which stressed that a nation has the right to determine its political destiny, that it is entitled to detach itself, irrespective of treaty obligations, from an alien rule. And the French revolutionaries deemed it their mission to spread their new gospel, if necessary, by arms, and a series of wars ensued.

It is true that the Napoleonic conquest won glory for France rather than freedom for other nations as envisaged at first by her revolutionaries. It is also true that the Vienna Settlement in 1815, whose chief author was Metternich, an ardent supporter of legitimacy and a stout opponent of the principle of nationality, was largely influenced by considerations of rewards and punishments, of precaution against a new outbreak of "French danger" and the spread of the spirit of the Revolution, and was designed to restore the conditions prior to 1789. The settlement, however, could not check the surging tide of nationalism let loose by the Revolution. It gave rise, among others, to the rebellions of the Greeks and Slavs against the Ottoman Empire, wide-spread insurrections of 1848 in France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Bohemia, Hungary and Ireland, the wars of Italian unification, the wars of German unification; the Crimean War of 1854-6, the Balkan War of 1877-8. In the Americas the example set by the American Independence was followed by Latin Americans against the Spanish Empire. The gradual evolution of dominion status for Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa was, although effected peaceably, was a phenomena along the same path. In the Oriental world, reconstruction of feudal Japan along nationalistic lines under the Meiji Government, and the rise of nationalist movements in China, India and Burma, the Philippines, Persia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Egypt may also be regarded as manifestations of this general political trend. The World War 1914-18 was due not to dynastic ambitions or religious animosities but to the conflict of nationalisms. At the Versailles settlement of 1919 unlike its Vienna prototype of 1815, the Wilsonian doctrine of national self-determination triumphed in large measure in Central and Eastern Europe at the cost of the Austrian Turkish, and Russian Empires. Behind the facade of the newly created universal League of Nations, the policy pursued by sponsor nations such as France and Britain was grounded on national interests rather than on universal interests, which in due course gave rise to Fascism in Italy and integral nationalism in Germany. The Soviet Union, whose policy was originally based on Marxian universalism, has been steadily transformed through a series of "purges" and "plans" into a traditional state of a nationalistic pattern, and the present war is accelerating the process, even showing signs of imperialism accompanied by a revival of Czarist military traditions and by rewriting its national history in Slavonic terms.

Nationality is primarily based on group sentiment. Though race is one of the chief factors creating such sentiment, religion, common language and literature, common customs and habits of thought, and common history are also factors which generate it. The composition of national sentiment is so complex and diverse that James Bryce, who paid some diligent attention to the problem could go on further than to define it negatively as "that feeling or group of feelings which makes an aggregate of men conscious of ties, not being wholly either political or religious, which unites them in a community which is, either actually or potentially, a Nation." Nationalism which assigns a high place to nationality in the hierarchy of values sometimes takes the form of cultural nationalism alone. A nationality, however, has a general tendency to aspire to become a nation, to constitute itself into an independent national state. Nationality is such a potent factor in the integration and disintegration of states that a state composed of a number of nationalities endeavors to create a sentiment single of nationality. When a nationality and a state have been synthesized into a national state, nationalism will become synonymous with patriotism. Nationalism in Europe is said to be the synthesis of the Renaissance Sovereignty and the Revolutionary Rights of Man. In its earlier stage it was associated with a liberal or democratic polity, but in its later stage nationalism for various reasons came to assume the form of totalitarianism. Moreover, a nationality once attaining its political aspirations as sometimes a tendency to become imperialistic, denying the principle of nationality asserted by others.

Nationalism in Greater East Asia is essentially a movement of various Asian nationalities to emancipate themselves from and to protect themselves against the political and economic imperialism of Western Powers. It must be borne in mind that it is against this political background of Greater East Asia that Japan's Foreign Minister Shigemitsu stressed the principle of nationality as one of Japan's War Aims.

JAPAN'S 'FLEET IN BEING' STRATEGY

Japanese Navy Waits for Decisive Opportunity

By MASANORI ITO
(From Contemporary Japan)

I

It is a foregone conclusion that the ultimate outcome of the now continuing Pacific war will be decided by a naval battle that is destined to be fought in the near future between the Japanese and American navies in the Pacific. The recent American advance into Saipan, Tinian and Guam has admittedly given rise to a truculent situation not very far from the aorta of Japan's defense line. But since Japan still holds a large number of strategic bases in the central and southern Pacific, it would be rather a case of wishfulness if one were to suggest that the latest situation in the Mariana Islands marks the commencement of warfare in the heart of her defense zone. Even if the United States were to dislodge Japan from a string of strategic vertices in the central and southern Pacific, it would not in any wise indicate a stilettoing, as it were, of the aorta of Japan's defense line, which can be pierced only when the United States Navy has installed itself along the fringes of Japanese shores.

The question is whether the American Navy has strength enough to secure the command of the fringe of Japanese shores. It may be pointed out that the more the American Navy starts converging on Japan basing squadrons en route, the more its intrinsic fighting power will be divided in a ratio proportionate to the distribution of its warships in the bases acquired. Thus the offensive efficiency of the American Navy will be correspondingly decreased. Of course, it is true that, owing to the latest turn in the war situation, the United States has been favored with conditions suitable for conducting task force operations against certain extremities of Japanese shores, and that on opportune occasions it can raid Japan Proper by releasing carrier-borne planes. On the other hand, due note should be taken of the static fact that the nearer the American Navy comes the better will be the chance for the Japanese Navy to engage in a decisive onslaught. The present comparative inactivity of the Japanese Navy means that it is following what is called the "fleet in being" strategy, that is, to keep the bulk of the Navy in waiting till the arrival of the decisive opportunity to carry out a coordinated naval action with the home naval stations forming the offensive bulwark.

America's Objective Obvious

It seems that the United States is aiming at a central drive through the Pacific—a strategy which is neither novel nor new. Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the American Pacific Fleet, has adopted this strategy as an attempt to sever the aorta of Japan's defense line on the one hand, and to subject the war industry and key areas of Japan Proper to high-power air bombardments on the other. To achieve that end, it is absolutely necessary for the United States to occupy the Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands. For the purpose of intercepting Japan's line of communication with the southern countries and thereby interrupt the delivery of oil and other indispensable defense materials, it is equally necessary for the United States to invade the Philippines and Formosa. That the United States is bent upon achieving the first objective is obvious from her task force operations that are being conducted against the Ogasawara Group. Inasmuch as an attempt to occupy the Philippines and Formosa will entail heavy losses in effectives and equipment, the United States, in trying to realize her second objective, may, above all others, concentrate on capturing certain strategic positions. All these apparent moves of America have been anticipated by Japan, who is eagerly waiting for the precipitation of the expected opportune moment to unleash her top-gear naval offensive.

It will, therefore, be observed that, apart from the certainty of a decisive battle of unprecedented importance to be fought between Japan and the United States in the Pacific near the mainland of the former, the latter, at the same time, will certainly exert her utmost to penetrate deep into the southern countries to turn the tables against Japan insofar as the acquisition of strategic materials is concerned. In addition, the United States will endeavor her very best to have more air bases in China in order to carry out intensified air raids on Japan Proper. Being fully aware of these intentions of America, Japan is replenishing the defense preparedness of the southern countries as much as possible under the trying circumstances and is simultaneously foiling the attempts of the American command to set up advance air bases in China. Since May last, the Japanese expeditionary forces have been conducting successful offensive operations in China, with the result that they have not only occupied the strategic front-line American air bases, but have split China into two along the Peking-Hankow and Canton-Hankow railways, thus compelling the United States to detail her main body of China-based air force in the hinterland. So long as the American air bases in China are made to remain in the interior any air raid to be staged on Japan Proper will only be of guerilla nature.

Importance on Pacific

The United States, in conducting operations against Japan, is attaching more importance to the Pacific sector than to the China front or the southern region, because she thinks that should she be able to cripple the Japanese Navy in a decisive battle her victory in the war would be automatically assured. She calculates that the crippling of the Japanese Navy would mean, firstly, the interception of the line of communication between Japan and the southern region, that is to say, the stoppage of the inflow of oil and other vital defense materials from the southern region to Japan, as well as of arms and ammunition from Japan to the southern region; secondly, the interception of supply lines between Japan and the seaboard of China; and, thirdly, the opening of a safe route for carrying out landings on Japan Proper. This calculation is, indeed, rational, for a convincing naval victory on the part of the United States would naturally nullify the need of prosecuting long and bitter operations against the Japanese Forces either in the southern region or in the mainland of China—operations which are bound to exact heavy sacrifices. Moreover, such a victory may shorten the duration of the war. However as the calculation is merely hypothetical, more so because it presupposes the defeat of the Japanese Navy without considering the significant import of its "fleet in being" strategy, it cannot but be dismissed as a paper inference.

It may be mentioned that America's desire to subject the mainland of Japan to naval bombardment springs, among other things, from a technical reason. A shell fired from a naval gun is far more destructive than a bomb of the same caliber dropped from an airplane; in fact, a shell fired from a naval gun is several times powerful than a bomb released from an airplane. Also shells discharged from a warship generally score a higher percentage of hits than bombs unloaded from an aircraft. Since the American Navy has already tested the destructive power of its gunfire in carrying out naval operations against Makin, Tarawa, Kwezarin, Saipan, Tinian, Guam and other islands, it is not unnatural on its part to make preparations for subjecting the mainland of Japan to withering naval fire from points ten to twenty miles off the coast. Such an ambitious objective can only be realized when the American Pacific Fleet succeeds in enfeebling the Japanese Navy in a decisive engagement. As long as Japan maintains a "fleet in being," it will not be possible for the American Navy to open concentrated naval fire on Japanese coastal zones, though it may be able to stage hit-and-run attacks by employing raiding squadrons. Even hit-and-run operations would be risky because of the counter-attacks to be launched by Japanese warships, underwater craft and warplanes.

Will Receive Trouncing

Should the main body of the American Pacific Fleet, without fighting a decisive battle with the Japanese Navy, approaches the shores of Japan to bombard towns and factory zones, it is sure to receive a severe trouncing. Herein lies the reason why the two navies are getting ready to clash in a decisive combat in order to turn the tide of the war one way or the other. The question is, when will the Japanese Navy sally forth to engage the American Pacific Fleet? This is a question which falls within the purview of naval secrets, and so no answer could be given to it; yet this much is certain that decisive battle between the Japanese Navy and the American Fleet will take place when the latter approaches Japanese waters or when a battle centering on a strategic place of the highest importance enters upon a decisive stage.

Admiral Nimitz from time to time has stated that the American Pacific Fleet is searching for the Japanese Fleet, and that the Japanese Fleet is avoiding engagements by remaining in home waters. What he does not say is that the American Pacific Fleet, in searching for the Japanese Fleet, remains scrupulously 1,000 kilometers away from the Japanese operational bases. To be exact, the American Pacific Fleet is searching for the Japanese Fleet in its own operational zone. How can then it expect the Japanese Fleet to fall into its trap? During the Saipan operation, criticism was levelled against the Japanese Navy for not going all out to attack the major American task force there. It must be made clear that the main body of the Japanese Navy refrained from all-out action, because it considered the pursuance of the "fleet in being" strategy more important than the loss of Saipan.

One may as well ask, what is the "fleet in being" strategy? As stated earlier, it is a naval tactics to keep the main body of a fleet intact till a decisive opportunity for action presents itself. The probability of success in a decisive combat is dependent on three factors. They are the comparative naval strength of the contending fleets, the reserves for a subsequent battle and the geographical conditions surrounding the actual scene of the decisive battle. In addition, the fighting technique and will, as well as luck must be taken into account. Unless these factors are carefully weighed and found satisfactory, the main body of a fleet should not sally forth to engage in a decisive action. During the Saipan operation, the main body of the Japanese Fleet remained inactive, for after due examination of the above-mentioned factors, the probability of convincing success was found to be limited. The Japanese Fleet is still standing by, because it is waiting for the unfolding of the probability of convincing success.

Scored Brilliant Successes

At the initial stage of the Pacific war, the Japanese Navy scored brilliant successes chiefly on account of the superior efficiency of its air arm. Thereafter, the United States by executing a mammoth warship and naval air arm expansion program increased her naval strength, particulary the strength of her aircraft-carrier and aircraft so phenomenally that she exceeded the quantitative naval air arm strength of Japan. Handicapped by quantitatively inferior air arm strength, the Japanese Fleet has been obliged to go slow, and in the meantime it is increasing its air arm with a view to becoming fully prepared for the launching of the expected decisive battle.

In fighting a major naval battle due regard should be given to have reserve warships to be utilized in subsequent "clear-the-way" operations. Last but not least important is the selection of such a locality for a decisive battle as would enable a fleet to give full play to its naval strength with its operational bases forming the protective bulwark. Without scrutinizing these two essential factors it would be unwise for a fleet to risk a decisive engagement. The Japanese Navy is still pursuing a "wait-and-see" attitude chiefly because conditions advantageous to the insuring of these two essential factors have not yet ripened. Admiral Nimitz wants the Japanese Navy to leave its operational bases and sail into the cruising zone of the American Pacific Fleet. He can hardly expect the Japanese Navy to view such a method of enticement as a challenge to fight. Since the American Pacific Fleet, in spite of its quantitative superiority, is disinclined to venture into the Japanese Navy's operational zone, that is, a cruising area of 1,000 kilometers from Japanese waters, the Japanese Navy has no other option but to remain waiting, meanwhile waging a war of attrition against the American task force squadrons so as to hasten the advent of a golden opportunity to engage in a decisive combat. Put in another form, the Japanese Navy has been forced to pursue the "fleet in being" strategy in order to wait for the unfolding of a golden opportunity for staging a decisive onslaught.

(To Be Concluded)

Too Hasty

Auntie: "I do hope you will like my present. I couldn't decide whether you would like a large check or a small one."

Impecunious Nephew: "Any cheque would be ripping, Auntie?"

Auntie: "Ah, what a pity. I bought you a striped tie after all."

Dilemma

"Ah, good mornin', Mrs. Murphy, and how is everythin'?"

"Sure, and I'm havin' a great time uv it between me husband and the fire. If I keep me eye on the wan, the other is sure to go out."